

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 17, 1994

Published Since 1877

## Missionaries offer ideas for homeless ministries

ATLANTA, Ga. — Redemptive ministry with the homeless is the subject of this year's Home Mission study and an everyday concern for many home missionaries.

With estimates of the U.S. homeless population ranging from 300,000 to 3 million, ministry to the homeless can seem overwhelming. But missionaries across the nation cite a number of ways churches and individuals can be involved.

Many homeless people are unemployed, mentally ill, addicted to drugs, people who chose to be homeless, or youths who run away from home, said Valerie Carter, home missionary and director of

Hillside Baptist Center in Richmond, Va. The fastest growing segment of the homeless population is women and children, she noted.

Regardless of their situation, homeless people typically feel dislocated because they have no place to belong, Carter said. They may feel like failures or victims.

"Some of them are very intelligent and many of them know the Bible, but they have lost their dignity," Carter said. "They probably will not initiate a conversation with you, but they will respond if you will."

This year's study material for the Season of Prayer for Home Missions is designed to help indi-

viduals and churches deal with spiritual and physical needs of homeless people in their communities.

Carter said the best ministry with homeless people is to become involved "one-on-one for long-term changes."

Taylor Field, home missionary in New York City, agrees. "Our focus is to become involved in people's lives," he said. "We want to know their names and walk through the next step in their lives with them. As the relationship becomes more personal, we can share Christ. That keeps it from being just relief work."

Some examples of homeless ministry include:

— First Baptist Church of Benton, Ark., provides an apartment where a family, often a single mother with children, can stay until they are independent again.

— Sacramento Baptist Association in California provides "breakfast bags" on Saturday, a day when many soup kitchens are closed. The bags include sandwiches, fruit, a hard-boiled egg and juice. On Sunday, churches in the association prepare and serve breakfast.

— The Phoenix Project in Louisville, Ky., and "Setting Addicts Free Eternally" in Portland, Ore., offer long-term housing and lifestyle training to help people overcome problems that may have led to their homelessness.

— Volunteers from Briarlake Baptist Church in Atlanta and Peninsula Baptist Association in Virginia provide furniture to homeless families which find housing.

The study material on redemptive ministry with the homeless includes separate units for preschoolers, younger children, older

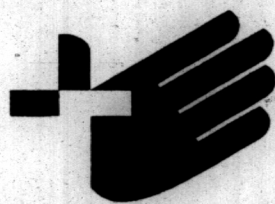


**GOSPEL INTRODUCTION** — Brian Zimmerman, right, talks to youths at Mallory Baptist Center in Baltimore. Zimmerman, a home missionary to be featured in this year's Week of Prayer for Home Missions, leads the center's staff to find creative ways and times to reach youths in the south Baltimore neighborhood. Two thousand youths live within a five-minute walk of the center.

children, youths, and adults. It features three home missionaries involved in homeless ministries in Florida, Virginia, and Georgia. The study material can be ordered from the Baptist Book Store, 6380 Ridgeway Court Drive, Jackson,

MS 39211; telephone (601) 977-9676.

Videos for the adult, youth, and children Home Missions study are available from Broadcast Services, MBCB, on a check-out basis; telephone (601) 968-3800.



## IT'S YOUR SERVE

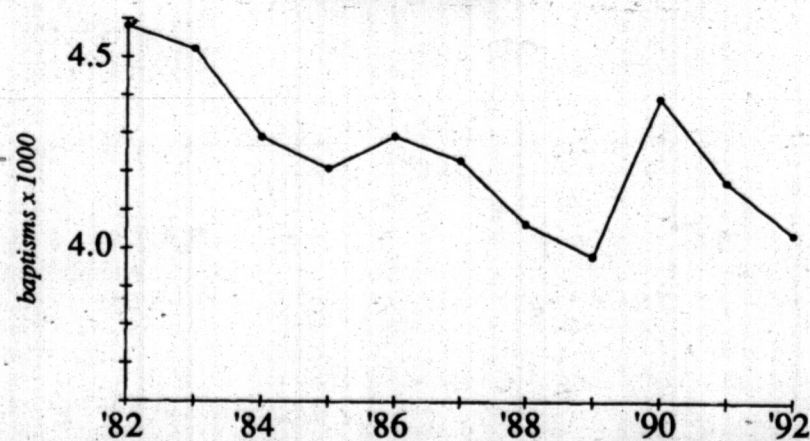
Minister in Christ's Name

1994 Season of Home Missions

- Home Mission Study  
Feb. 20-23, 1994
- Week of Prayer for Home Missions  
March 6-13, 1994
- Home Missions Day in Sunday School  
March 13, 1994
- Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
for Home Missions  
National Goal: \$40 million

### Youth baptisms declining across Mississippi

Youth Baptisms in Mississippi  
1982-1992



1992 Top Churches  
in Youth Baptisms

Church Location	Youth Baptisms	% of total baptisms
1. Colonial Hills Southaven	57	26%
2. Park Place Brandon	40	36%
3. Sharon Long Beach	34	34%
4. Morrison Heights Clinton	31	21%
5. Houston Road Laurel	28	38%

### Looking back...

#### 10 years ago

MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer Earl Kelly announces a plan to recruit 200 state Baptist volunteers to conduct a major South American evangelistic crusade in 1985, with Argentina and Uruguay among the first stops.

#### 20 years ago

Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President James L. Sullivan, the third Mississippian to serve in that capacity, addresses the Religious Education Association banquet in Biloxi.

#### 50 years ago

In a letter to the editor of *The Baptist Record*, John A. Farmer criticizes a federal government decision to draft ordained Southern Baptist ministers for regular combat roles in World War II.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Christian higher education

The Magnolia state is blessed with three good Baptist colleges. Many state and national leaders for church and state have graduated from these schools. Tuition and fees at Blue Mountain College, Mississippi College, and William Carey College compare favorably with other private schools and certainly should induce cost-conscious parents to consider them.

The awareness of education expenses should begin when the child is born (or before) and provision to attend a Christian college should be foremost for the next 17 years. Pastors, parents, and college recruiting officials should work together in turning students in that direction.

Invite college choirs and singing groups, athletes, musicians etc. to your church to speak on "Why I chose a Baptist College?"

Plan a field trip to one of our colleges. The pastor could write a letter to high school students urging them to consider a Baptist college. Observe "Seminary, College and School Day" in your church. If your church does not have a member in college then lead your youth group to "adopt-a-student" and pray for him or her and send an occasional "care package."

Why, you may ask, is Christian higher education so important? During those college years the student may decide his avocation, choose a mate, and form permanent friendship with students and faculty. Just how much "Christianity" should be involved in these decisions. The battle for the mind is more than a game. Schools can have a straight conduit to the mind with teaching which is anti-Christian, anti-

moral, and anti-family. Humanism and materialism can be portrayed as the real goals of life. C. S. Lewis, English philosopher, said, "The power of man to make himself what he pleases means... the power of some men to make of others what they please." Tearing down the Christian principles inculcated in students is a favorite delight of some "enlightened" professors.

In the future the need for Christian businessmen, Christian doctors, or Christian school teachers will be tremendous. You can improve this possibility by steering your children toward a Christian college. A strong denomination must have strong schools. Their support is our privilege and duty. Their products will be our assurance of a free country and a Christian society.

## Commentary...

## Christianity's unchanging truths and our ever-changing world

By R. Albert Mohler Jr.

America at the end of the 20th century is a society in the midst of a culture-shift. All around us are signs that our culture is being transformed by a constellation of forces including the electronic media, a post-industrial economy, rapid demographic change, and a breakdown of shared moral values.

All of this comes as the memory of the Christian world view becomes ever more remote from modern consciousness. Questions concerning right and wrong are now reduced to arguments over individual rights. What was once unmentionable has now become the focus of mainstream entertainment. Americans have increasingly lost the capacity for shame, and sin has been banished as a category for public conversation.

But the problem is even worse, for the very notion of objective truth is itself denied by millions of Americans. As the late professor Allan Bloom warned in *The Closing of the American Mind*, "There is one thing a professor can be absolutely sure of: almost every student entering the university believes, or says he believes, that truth is relative."

The Barna Research Group released a study two years ago indicating that 67% of Americans reject the very notion of absolute truth, and that 52% of self-identified "born again" Christians

shared that belief!

The report continued, "The typical adult would argue that what is considered truth by me may not be the same truth to which you ascribe — and neither of us is necessarily wrong, even if our respective truths are in conflict."

This new reality represents a fundamental challenge to the Christian church. Either we will stand against the tide and speak for absolute truth, or we will abdicate the faith once for all delivered to the saints.

Christianity stands or falls on the basis of its truth claim, and that claim is to absolute truth, not mere subjectivity and relativism. The Lord who claimed to be "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," cannot be served by disciples who reject the very notion of objective truth.

The task of proclaiming Christ in the midst of this changing culture requires that we make clear our witness to Jesus Christ and his gospel as a truth more true than anything else the world can know — and not as a matter of mere religious preference or private discrimination. Americans — including many church members — have so concentrated on religious experience that they have neglected or even denied the foundation of that experience.

In the midst of a changing world, the church must uphold its

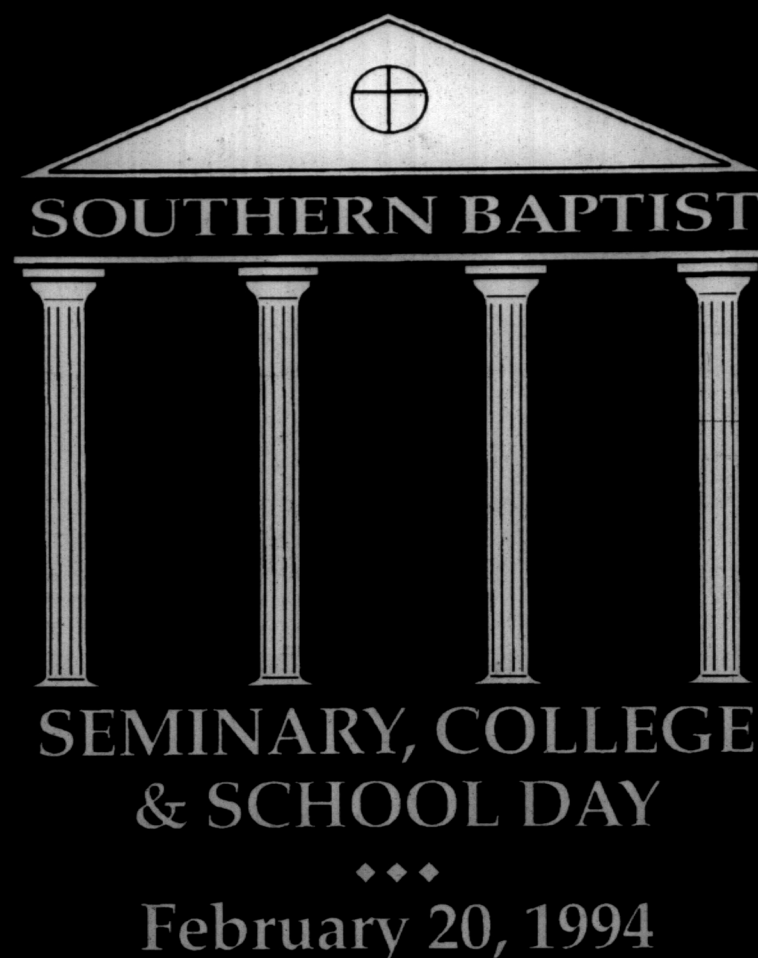
witness to what G.K. Chesterton called the "permanent things." There is no genuine Christianity other than that based upon absolute truth — on the truth of God the Creator and Sustainer of all things; on Jesus Christ as the Incarnate Word, our Messiah and Mediator; on salvation through Jesus Christ and his atoning death as our substitute; and the hope of glory as our promise for eternity.

Southern Baptist seminaries bear the challenge of preparing a generation of God-called ministers of the gospel who are ready to take front-line positions as we proclaim biblical truth in troubled times. This will require the greatest degree of commitment, and the highest quality of consecrated scholarship.

Our Lord promised his disciples, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). These are challenging days for the church, for theological seminaries, and for individual Christians as we seek to proclaim Christ in a changing world. But these are exciting days as well, for our opportunity is to speak the truth in love, and to demonstrate the truth in life.

The world is watching, the churches are waiting, and lives are hanging in the balance. And that is the absolute truth.

Mohler is president of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST**

**SEMINARY, COLLEGE & SCHOOL DAY**

◆◆◆

**February 20, 1994**

Sponsored by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

## Faith produces commitment

Southern Baptist-related educational institutions are committed to both the intellectual and spiritual development of their students.

Professors and staff integrate their personal faith and professional disciplines in a way that fosters the personal growth and academic excellence of their students.

Students are encouraged to develop a faith the produces a lifelong commitment to Christian witness and ministry.

Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day is set on the Southern Baptist denominational calendar for Feb. 20.

As your church or institution observes this important day, remember in prayer the more than 6,500 professors and administrators and the more than 190,000 students at the 71 Baptist-related educational institutions.

— The Education Commission, SBC

## Suggested books for high school seniors headed to college this fall:

Disciple's Study Bible (NIV).

College Health Guide, by Sandra and Chris Smith; Westchester Publishing.

Can I be a Christian Without Being Weird?, by Kevin Johnson.

How to Help Your Friends, by Joe Richardson; Broadman.

Casebook for Youth Ministry, by William R. Cramer; Broadman.

Campus Life magazine, \$14.95 per year.

Collegiate Disciple Materials, order from the Baptist Sunday School Board or the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Student Work Department, (601) 968-3800.



*Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today*

**BSU & CHURCHES**

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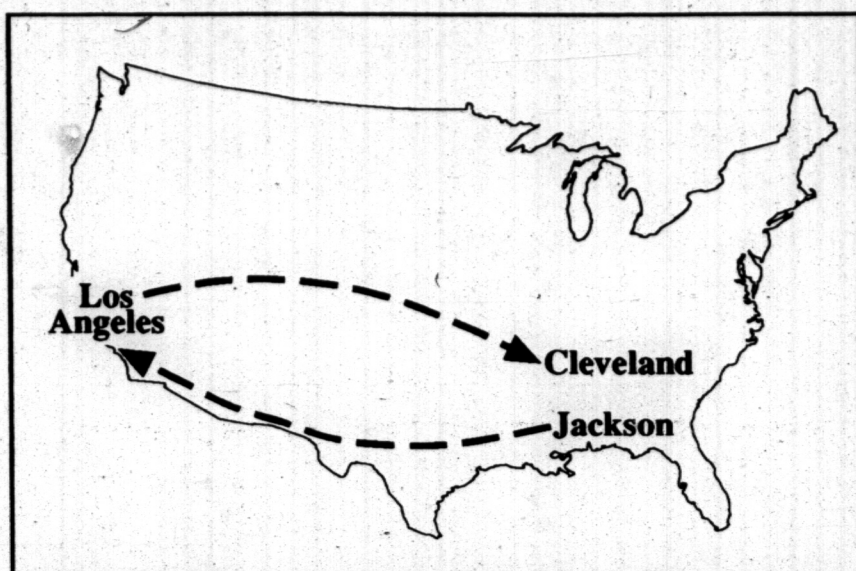


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## Crippling ice storm means no rest for Miss. relief unit

By William H. Perkins Jr. and Tim Nicholas

Most folks don't go through California on their way to the Delta, but that was the case for Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief unit.

Fresh from three weeks of record-setting meal preparation for victims of the Jan. 17 Los Angeles earthquake, the 18-wheel rolling kitchen was diverted to Cleveland on the trip home from California and is presently dishing up thousands of meals every day for Delatans reeling from the state's worst ice storm in 20 years.

"We are getting organized and trying to establish feeding patterns. We'll be here as long as we see a critical need," said Jim Didlake, consultant in the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) Brotherhood Department and on-site coordinator for state Baptist disaster relief.

The huge tractor-trailer rig, which arrived at Calvary Church, Cleveland, at 4 p.m. on Feb. 13, was driven non-stop from Los Angeles by Bill Purvis of Ethel Church, Ethel, and Jerry Sanford, pastor of Sardis Church, Sardis. Purvis and Sanford had driven the unit 37 straight hours to California three weeks earlier.

Calvary pastor Bob Hill is presently serving as chairman of the board of trustees of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, headquartered in Memphis. Emmanuel Church (Tommy Arinder, pastor) and First Church (Ryan Whitley, pastor), both in Cleveland, have also been instrumental during the Baptist response, officials said.

The ice storm also marked the first activation of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) disaster relief unit.

A specially-equipped Itasca motor home, outfitted for extended disaster response, was put into service last year by WMU to support

women volunteers at disaster sites.

"We are really excited to be out here for the first time. We've helped with the cooking and cleaning, and we've been on the road to other communities, distributing meals," said Joan Tyler of Collins, former state WMU president.

The Mississippi Brotherhood Department is compiling a list of Baptist disaster units in action across north Mississippi. In addition to the churches already mentioned, the list includes:

- Enterprise, Enterprise.
- North Oxford, Oxford.
- First, Leland.
- North Greenwood, G'wood.
- First, Greenwood.
- First, Holly Springs.

The Brotherhood Department has requested that Baptist organizations planning to respond to the disaster contact the department so resources and volunteers can be coordinated.

Pastor Hill of Calvary was impressed by the extent of the Baptist relief effort.

"They are committed yet compassionate, taking time to do little things for people. I heard two Baptist ladies who ate meals here say that they had given to the (Margaret Lackey) State Missions Offering, and now they had seen it in action," Hill said.

Didlake said the most pressing needs at the moment are for financial contributions, Coleman lantern fuel, bottled water, and batteries. Clothing is not needed, he added.

"Please — call the Brotherhood Department before making donations or traveling to the area as a volunteer. This will help us a great deal," Didlake said.

For information on donations or to volunteer for service, contact the Mississippi Brotherhood Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

## Rankin County church destroyed

Star Church, Rankin Association, lost its sanctuary and a portion of its education building in a 3 a.m. blaze Feb. 13. The part of the facility not burned received significant smoke and water damage. The cause of the fire was still under investigation at press time.

Vic Bowman, who became pastor of the church Jan. 1 after eight years as a Southern Baptist missionary in Chile, said members of the church family gathered for a prayer service Sunday morning following the fire. Bowman said the church has received several offers for a meeting place, but no final decision has been made.

## Wolfe to be SBC candidate; Jim Henry considering run

By Greg Warner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — Southern Baptists may choose between two prominent conservative pastors in electing their next president.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Church, Mobile, Ala., confirmed Feb. 8 he will be nominated for the post when the Southern Baptist Convention meets in June.

And Jim Henry, pastor of First Church in the host city of Orlando, Fla., said he is giving the presidency serious consideration, despite Wolfe's announcement.

Wolfe, chairman of the powerful SBC Executive Committee, is the first to throw his hat into the ring. His nomination was announced by former president Jerry Vines Feb. 8 during a national Bible conference at First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., where Vines is co-pastor.

The annual Bible conference has launched several successful presidential nominees, including Adrian Rogers in 1986, Vines in 1988, and Morris Chapman in 1990.

Wolfe, who was not a scheduled speaker for the conference, flew in for the announcement, said Douglas Pigg, church administrator at the Jacksonville church. He was introduced and endorsed by Vines.

Henry's name has surfaced several times in the past decade as a potential candidate but his nomination has never materialized. "This is the first time that I've prayed seriously about it," he said. "It just is on my heart."

The location of the annual meeting in his hometown of Orlando would be a decided advantage for Henry, but the 56-year-old pastor said that's not his primary consideration. "I just want God's will to be done for our convention and in my life."

Wolfe, also 56, declined to talk to Associated Baptist Press but released a statement through Baptist Press, the news service operated by the Executive Committee.

He said a group of 60-70 conservatives asked him to allow his nomination. He since sought advice and received support from several recent SBC presidents, he said.

Henry told ABP he too has been encouraged by some SBC leaders to allow his nomination, but he added, "I'd rather not divulge who."

Both Henry and Wolfe have been leaders in the conservative political movement among South-

ern Baptists.

Although Henry has shied away from overt politicking, he was one of four key endorsers of Chapman's candidacy in 1990. Wolfe has been more visible in the political fray and was considered the conservatives' likely presidential candidate in 1990 before key leaders of the movement picked Chapman instead.

Conservative insiders say Wolfe has earned his shot at the post, particularly through his service on the Executive Committee. Others say Henry is the logical choice because of the convention's location in Orlando and Henry's record as a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program, the SBC's central budget.

The Cooperative Program, now in its third straight year of decline, is one factor likely to surface in the debate. Critics say conservative churches, traditionally low in Cooperative Program support, have not taken up the slack of moderate churches that reduced or diverted their funding as conservatives solidified their hold on the denomination in recent years.

First Church of Orlando has been a consistent leader in Cooperative Program funding, leading all SBC churches in CP contributions in 1992. The 10,000-member church gave \$843,732 in 1993, or an estimated 14% of undesignated receipts. Henry has been pastor of the church for 16 years.

Cottage Hill Church, where Wolfe has been pastor for 23 years, gave \$183,333 to the CP in 1993, church officials said. But the 8,800-member church has been below the national average in Cooperative Program percentage giving.

Wolfe told members of the Executive Committee last September that the church gives about 5% of its receipts to the CP. He pledged to improve that record by half a percent a year until the church reached 10%.

The election is not expected to attract a formidable candidate from among SBC moderates, who have lost every presidential election since 1979 and have since eschewed the political battle.

That leaves conservatives to determine among themselves who will hold the SBC's top elected position. While conservatives traditionally have united behind a single candidate, their unthreatened control of the denomination has prompted multiple candidates in recent years.

Warner is editor, Associated Baptist Press.

## Mississippi young men to serve at SBC meeting

The Mississippi Brotherhood Department is seeking members of High School Baptist Young Men (HSBYM) to serve as pages at the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 14-16 in Orlando, Fla.

"These young men are an important part of the annual meeting. Their contribution to Brotherhood Commission staff, SBC agency personnel, and convention volunteers is invaluable," said Jim Didlake, consultant in the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

To serve as pages, young men must:

- be active in the HSBYM program of their church.
- be in grades 10-12 during the school year in which they are nominated.
- have completed at least the base unit and one additional unit from Missions Challenge.
- apply by March 1, 1994.

Pages serve for one annual meeting, Didlake said, and all meals and housing are provided by the state Brotherhood Department and the SBC Brotherhood Commission. Their local church is asked to help with transportation to the convention site.

"This is an outstanding opportunity to be a part of an experience of both education and service. We hope that churches will encourage their young men to begin work now to be a part of this," Didlake said.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Didlake at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.





## MC drama spotlights Lewis

Mississippi College's Theatre Department will present *Shadowlands*, a play by William Nicholson based on the life of Christian author C.S. Lewis and his relationship with his wife, American poet Joy Gresham. Rehearsing a scene from the play are (from left) Grayson Paynter, Angie Rhodes, Cliff Bowen Jr., Collin Johnson, and Dayn Perry. Anne Sullivan, MC theatre instructor, will direct the play, and MC student Tim Riley has written an original music score for the presentation, which will run Feb. 22-March 1. For more information, call (601) 925-3453.

## Joint Committee, CLC disagree on Helms' amendment

WASHINGTON (BP) — When the Senate recently passed the Clinton administration's Goals 2000 education bill, it included three prayer-related amendments — one which brought opposing views from the Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

The Senate earlier had approved by a 75-22 margin an amendment withholding federal funds from any state or local educational body which prevents "constitutionally protected prayer in public schools by individuals on a voluntary basis." The amendment, introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., also prohibits any agency from requiring a person to pray or from influencing the form or substance of a "constitutionally protected prayer" in the schools.

The education bill already had been passed by the House of Representatives without such lan-

guage. The legislation will go to a conference committee to reconcile the differences before returning to both houses for final passage.

The Christian Life Commission expressed support for the amendment, while the BJC opposed it.

"We certainly support strong sanctions against any school district which intentionally refuses to allow constitutionally protected, voluntary prayer by individuals in the public school setting," CLC Executive Director Richard Land and General Counsel Michael Whitehead said in a prepared statement.

BJC General Counsel Brent Walker said the amendment was unnecessary and potentially harmful to church-state separation.

"Students already have the right to pray privately, even corporately sometimes," so the amendment "doesn't really do anything," Walker said.

## Blue Mountain College —

# Religious, academic commitment top priority among students

The faculty and staff of Blue Mountain College are committed to helping students make the best decisions they possibly can. In order to facilitate the college choice decision, the Blue Mountain College admissions staff developed a brief survey that will help young women assess their own values. Entitled "Will I benefit from attending Blue Mountain College?" the survey enables young women to determine whether or not their values will be nurtured and supported at Blue Mountain College.

Sample items on the survey included:

— I participate in class discussion whenever I have an opportunity.

— I am or want to be an officer in a campus club or society.

— I do my work without having to be reminded or encouraged.

— I would surrender my point of view to maintain peace with fellow students.

— Social contacts are more important to me than meeting people in my career field.

The results of the survey showed that resident students shared common values in five key areas.

**Religious Orientation.** Blue

Mountain students have a strong religious commitment.

**Academic and career goals.** The only item in the inventory survey to receive a score of +100% was "It's as important to me as it is to my parents that I graduate from college."

**Respect for authority.** Only one item in the inventory received a score of +95%, the second highest score, "Young adults should show respect to their parents, teachers, and others in positions of authority regardless of whether they agree with what they say."

**Family values.** Several items in the inventory indicate that Blue

Mountain students have positive family relationships and value their families.

**Integrity.** In an era when national surveys have found that large numbers of students cheat on school exams and assignments, Blue Mountain students rejected at the -75% level the statement, "If I were confident that I wouldn't be caught, I would cheat on an exam rather than accept a failing grade."

Harold Fisher, president of Blue Mountain College, says that employers like to hire Blue Mountain College graduates because they have a reputation for integrity. This quality sets Blue Moun-

tain students apart from many in contemporary American culture who value financial success and career achievement above honor and integrity.

Students can expect to benefit greatly from the courses of study, the extracurricular programs, and the campus environment created by the students, faculty, and staff of the college. They and their parents can have a high degree of confidence that their values will be supported and further developed at the college.

— Written by Glen Liebig, Admissions Department, Blue Mountain College.

# Bills survive two deadlines in Mississippi Legislature

by Paul G. Jones II and Elizabeth K. Holmes

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) provides this updated list of legislative bills that remain alive after two deadlines. During the session, legislators can be reached by writing to P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS, 39215, or calling (601) 359-3770. CAC can provide assistance and a complete list of current bills to any cooperating Southern Baptist church. Contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800. "House" means House of Representatives. "HB" means House Bill. "SB" means Senate Bill. "HCR" means House Concurrent Resolution. "SCR" means Senate Concurrent Resolution.

### Alcohol and other drugs

HB 84. Allows drug and alcohol testing of employees. Passed House. Referred to Senate Public Health and Judiciary Committees.

HB 101. Alcohol Boating Safety Act. Makes it unlawful to operate a water craft while under the influence of alcohol. Passed House. Referred to Senate Wildlife and Fisheries Committee.

HB 270. Permits alcoholic beverages to be brought in from out of state. Referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

### Church and state

HB 222/SB 2074. Permits nonsectarian, non-proselytizing, student-initiated voluntary prayer on public school property and at public school events. Passed in chamber of origin and sent to opposite chamber.

HCR 54. Asks Congress to begin process of amending U.S. Constitution to allow organized prayer in public schools. Forwarded to House Rules Committee.

SCR 565/SCR 567. Calls upon Congress to initiate constitutional convention to amend U.S. Constitution to allow group prayer in school.

HB 1128. Allows trust funds for church maintenance. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

### Education

HB 299. Funds comprehensive health education program in public schools through state Department of

Education. Referred to House Appropriations Committee. Faces Feb. 24 deadline for action.

HB 748. Enhances penalties for assaults against school employees. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

HB 755. Provides automatic expulsion for student who possesses drugs, weapons, or commits violent act. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

SB 2345. Requires that publications of original documents shall be utilized in high school history classes. Passed Senate. Referred to the House Education Committee.

### Family

HB 83. Creates new grounds for divorce, including irreconcilable differences. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

HB 371. Validates certain marriages by mayors. Passed House. Referred to Senate.

HB 652. Allows pre-nuptial agreements. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

HB 676. Revises reporting requirements for neglected and abused children. Passed House. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 1571. Requires certain genetic tests as proof of non-paternity. Passed House. Sent to the Senate.

SB 2422. Allows genetic tests in paternity actions. Passed Senate. Referred to the House Judiciary A Committee.

HB 1576. Revises provisions relating to child pornography. Passed House. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 2403. Requires state Department of Human Services to notify state Department of Education when a child has been placed in custody of the department. Passed Senate. Sent to the House.

### Gambling

HB 488/SB 2935. Repeals Slot Amusement Machine Tax Law. HB 488 referred to House Ways and Means Committee. SB 2935 passed Senate; referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

HB 930. Permits Tunica County to impose 3.2% tax on gambling revenue in county. Passed House. Referred to Senate Finance and Local and Private Committees.

HB 1659/1681. Permits Coahoma

County to impose impact fee (tax) on gambling vessels. Referred to House Ways and Means and Local and Private Committees. As a revenue bill, it faces a later deadline.

SB 2123. Allows local authorities to impose taxes on bingo. Referred to Senate Finance Committee. Faces Feb. 24 deadline.

SB 3162. Regulates and taxes electronic video coin machines. Referred to Senate Finance Committee. Faces Feb. 24 deadline.

HB 1029. Makes technical revisions in Gaming Control Act. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

HB 1309. Revises charitable bingo laws. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

HB 1522. Allows public schools to train gambling employees for certification. Passed House in amended form upon reconsideration. Being held upon second motion of reconsideration.

SB 2860. Allows training of gambling employees at state community colleges. Passed Senate. Referred to House Ways and Means Committee.

SB 2846. Makes casinos give preference to Mississippi products when purchasing. Passed Senate. Sent to House.

SB 3062. Requires all licensed child care facilities to be land-based. Passed Senate. Sent to House.

### Other

HB 165. Increases to four years the age of a child for whom a motor vehicle restraint seat is required. Passed House. Referred to Senate Highways Committee.

HB 166. Imposes \$25 fine for failure to use automobile seat belts. Passed House. Referred to Senate Highways Committee.

HB 768. Hate Crimes Reporting Act. Passed House. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 380. Allows landlords to terminate lease of a person convicted of illegal activity. Passed House. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 667. Lobbying Law Reform Act of 1994. Passed House. Sent to Senate.

Jones is executive director, Holmes is consultant for family and women's issues, CAC.



# HMB executive committee affirms Lewis, staff, and Masonic report

ATLANTA (BP) — Rejecting calls to review its handling of a report on Freemasonry, the executive committee of the Home Mission Board approved a resolution affirming actions of its president, staff, and board members relating to the controversial issue.

The resolution declares in part that the executive committee "deplores any statements attacking the Christian integrity and motives of the HMB directors and staff ... and affirms the actions and statements of its president, Dr. Larry Lewis and the Home Mission Board's trustees and staff."

"This issue is not going to go away," declared Walter Carpenter, board member from Texas, who wrote and introduced the measure. "It's time to respond to these attacks on our president, our staff, and our own characters."

The Home Mission Board was directed to conduct a study of Freemasonry during the 1992 Southern Baptist Convention. A lengthy paper and a brief report from the board have received wide acceptance across the SBC except from persons critical of the fraternal organization.

Board leadership has resisted

calls to revisit the Masonry issue. Last month an HMB board member, Walter Collett of Maryland, sent fellow board members a three-page letter asking that the study be withdrawn from circulation and that several issues be clarified.

Collett met with the board's administrative committee the evening prior to the executive committee meeting for what he termed a "wonderful time of sharing. We were able to communicate clearly about our numerous areas of agreement as well as the few areas of blessed disagreements," Collett told Baptist Press.

Greg Martin, board member from Gulfport, cast the lone dissenting vote against the resolution saying he opposed it because he had not had sufficient time to review it.

"I really believe, though, that passing this resolution defeats its very purpose. It just focuses more attention on the whole matter," Martin said.

Collett said it is not his responsibility to pursue the matter further with the board and has no plans to do so. "I'm done with the issue," he said.

The 20-member committee did

deal with a number of additional matters, including appointment of 24 new home missionaries and 53 Southern Baptist chaplains, and filling of three vacant staff positions.

Included in staff approvals during the meeting was Philip Roberts, elected as director of the Interfaith Witness Department. Roberts is presently a missions professor at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. He will assume his new responsibilities June 1.

Roberts fills the vacancy left by previous director Gary Leazer who resigned last year in the wake of the Masonry controversy.

Two current HMB staff members were elected to new positions. Herbert Brisbane, presently associate director of black church extension, will serve as director of the office of black evangelism. Brisbane, a native of Texas, will lead development of black evangelism strategies and materials.

Another Texan, Jerry Pipes, was elected associate director of personal evangelism working primarily with youth and college students. He has served as a national missionary for the evangelism section for the past year.

Thursday, February 17, 1994

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## Monroe Countians slam gambling

Monroe County Baptists turned out en masse at the state Capitol to help the Christian Action Commission (CAC) defeat a legislative proposal that would have relaxed state gambling laws and allowed inland gambling in areas like Monroe County, where some local politicians and groups have called for casino development. An anti-gambling petition signed by more than 5,000 Monroe Countians was presented to their state representatives, which include Jerome Husky (front, fourth from left), Billy Bowles (front, fifth from left), Mike Mills (receiving petition), and David Gibbs (front, third from right). Photo courtesy of The Aberdeen Examiner.

## BSSB ministry, financial reports demonstrate improving performance

NASHVILLE (BP) — Reports on ministry and financial performance by the Baptist Sunday School Board signal positive results in efforts to operate more efficient-

ly, according to the agency's president, James T. Draper Jr.

During the Feb. 7-8 semiannual trustees meeting in Nashville, Draper told trustees the board "is a financially strong institution with a long history of operational successes.... One source of my optimism is the fact that we are addressing our problems and already are beginning to see some positive results."

The election of Ted Warren as chief financial officer and vice president of the business services group represents another step forward in addressing financial concerns, Draper said.

He also cited implementation of a 1993 operational study of the board's business and finance and corporate services groups which has reduced corporate overhead expenses and is expected to realize a 1993-94 net savings of more than \$2 million.

The 1992-93 financial report, he said, shows real sales growth of 0.2%, while "holding the line on expenses in many areas." Total revenue of \$208 million was below budget by 2% but above last year by 2.8%. Funds provided from operations, the amount of money available to invest in ministries, was 0.2% compared to a budget goal of 0.5%.

For the first quarter of 1993-94, Jerry Rhyne, director of the Business and Finance Department, said revenue was 8.1% above the same period for the previous year, but 5.4% below budget. Areas of the board which experienced real growth are discipleship and family development, 12%; Genevox Music Group, 47%; ethnic and language, 4%; Broadman & Holman Publishers, 11%; Baptist Book Store and Lifeway Christian Stores, 5.7%; and direct marketing, 93.1%.

Declines in real growth were registered by church music leadership, 3.1%; Ridgecrest Conference Center, 9.9%; Glorieta Conference Center, 12.4%; and the Bible teaching-reaching division, 5.1%.

## William Carey College —

# Students cite their own reasons for school choice

When current students are asked why they chose William Carey College one finds a common thread of reasons. Among numerous ones are the Christian atmosphere, close relationships with a caring faculty, helpfulness of staff, small classes, generous financial aid packages, the quality of the academic program, the attraction of particular programs,

and friendliness of students and employees.

"I only considered Baptist colleges," said Alicia Parker, a music education and piano performance major from Laurel, "but the preliminary decision to come to Carey was based on the financial aid I was offered. Then, after CDT (she was pianist for Carey Dinner Theatre in 1992), I knew

for sure." Alicia mentioned the special support she had received before enrolling from Milfred Valentine, dean of the Winters School of Music. "I knew he would be there for me after I became a student."

Valorie Lazenby, who was first attracted to Carey because her mother is an alumna, stressed the Christian values she finds in those on campus. "In coming to Carey I thought I would find people who would share my values." An accounting major from Lumberton, she is a member of the Chorale and takes private voice. She and other students like being able to participate in co-curricular activities such as music and drama, even though the chosen major is in some other department.

The quality of the overall academic program is an attraction to students. Alicia Parker stated that "it's a challenging school. It's not easy, you can't breeze through." She stressed that faculty members "want to make sure that you are prepared" for the future.

Some students, such as Scott Herrin and Tim Matheny, cite the excellence of programs in individual departments. Herrin, a senior religion major from Laurel, came to Carey because of the reputation of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies. "Dr. William Clawson (retired religion professor) and I became friends during a mission trip. I thought that I couldn't afford to come to Carey, but Dr. Clawson insisted that I visit the school. What I saw on that visit con-

vinced me." Scott mentioned the fact that faculty and students are friends, that students are not numbers as they are in many large schools. "It's easier to learn in a place like this because of the small classes."

The trimester system — three terms instead of the more traditional two semesters — is something else that Scott likes about Carey. "Since I am married and work full-time at Indian Springs Church in Laurel, the trimester works much better for me. I have always been able to work and take a full load."

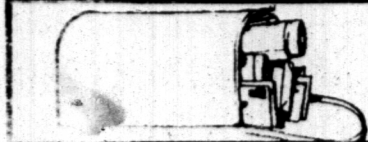
Matheny, who plans a career in home missions, is a theatre major with a minor in missions. He appreciates the quality of the theatre and communication program and the fact that he has a close relationship with the faculty. "Dr. (Virginia) Covington came to the campus when she was supposed to have the day off and went with me to the library to show me how to do a particular type of research." Tim hopes to use his training in drama in a unique way on the mission field.

Small classes are also an attraction for Tim. He had intended to attend a large state university, but a visit to Carey changed his mind. "The idea of sitting in a class with 200 students is not for me." Tim's largest class at Carey had an enrollment of 32, while the smallest had five. "Carey is not as threatening to someone who comes from a small school in a small town." He is from Brandon.

## Tuition and Fees at Southern Baptist Colleges and Universities 1991-93

	1991-92	1992-93
<b>Alabama</b>		
Samford University	\$6,540	\$7,064
<b>Arkansas</b>		
Ouachita Baptist University	5,370	5,800
<b>Georgia</b>		
Mercer University	9,425	10,287
<b>Louisiana</b>		
Louisiana College	4,160	4,870
<b>Mississippi</b>		
Blue Mountain College	3,372	3,556
Mississippi College	5,010	5,316
William Carey College	4,000	4,000
<b>Missouri</b>		
William Jewell College	8,300	8,970
<b>Tennessee</b>		
Union University	4,550	4,900
<b>Texas</b>		
Baylor University	6,110	6,590





# Letters to the editor

## communication

Who can one assign to a task that provides the body with information about the Christ in Mississippi and the world? What is the significance of having Christians serve in strategic positions of our government?

Recently, I heard a report on Christian radio about an Iranian believer who had been sentenced to death for apostasy (converting from Islam to Christianity). I heard how this Christian, at his trial, had not only refused to renounce Christ, but had given splendid testimony of our Lord. I felt burdened to try to assist this brother, but I didn't even know his name. Several of us, including our pastor, Rex Yancey, began to pray about this Christian's situation. I called Senator Trent Lott; he was anxious to help, but needed more information. Attempts, through two Christian organizations, failed to yield the vital data. Then, in a day or two, I received *The Baptist Record*, which provided an article about Mehdi Dibaj, the Iranian Christian under death sentence.

Communications with Jim Johnson and Ney Williams, of Senator Lott's Washington, D.C., office, resulted in Lott personally calling the U.S. State Department to seek help for Dibaj. God heard his people's prayers and used the tide of Christian outpouring for this brother to change the minds of Iranian leaders such that Dibaj was released on Jan. 16.

*The Baptist Record* is critical to Mississippi Baptists remaining informed about Christian issues near and far. I pray that we will continue to fund this vital publication.

As government, particularly on the federal level, becomes more and more insensitive, and at times even hostile, to those of us who advocate and live by Christian principles, I all-the-more appreciate Trent Lott and those precious few others in government who understand and share believers' concerns.

Ed Jones  
Pascagoula

## Shoulds and nots

Editor:

I am not sure you would publish a 13-year-old person's letter, but I just wanted to tell you several opinions and some thank yous if you don't mind. (I don't mind if you don't publish my letter but I just wanted to get this off my mind.) First, I want to say thank you for having *The Baptist Record* and all the stuff in it, for it tells more truth than anything I ever read and teaches things that most things do not.

Since I am to become a missionary when I grow up, I have been listening to most people around me to pick out or try to find out anything extra to help me with my biblical studies, but what

I hear is something I do not approve of. At the beginning I told you that I had some opinions of my own, so I would love to tell you some of them.

First, in the issue of drugs: Kids now think drugs are something to play with. Even at my school, kids from 14 all the way down to 7-year-olds are smoking, chewing, and taking drugs not made for them. In the Bible it says, "Thou shall not pollute the body for sin." I do disagree with any kind of drug in any form for I would not, nor any of my friends, take them. I say, "Once you pollute your body, it is hard to take it back."

Now days, also, younger girls and boys try to beat up on people twice their age. I think that is kind of funny, because young ones know if the older one gets angry enough, they could hurt the younger ones easily. I know because it happens every day to me. I just hold it all back because I know if I even lay a finger on them, it will be added to the list of things that will be read when I die, so I will not be blamed but it will be their fault, not mine.

Lastly, I think if a child is laughed at for wanting to become anything like a missionary or preacher, the one who laughs and claims to be a Christian, then, is just a fool that pretends in his sin.

Last of all I just want to say: God be with you.  
Nina Williams  
Tylertown

## Hopes to comfort

Editor:

I, as others, was deeply hurt and sorry to hear of Brad Boatner's death in Honduras.

The article I read about Brad's personal qualities was beautiful, and very uplifting to know. He was a very spiritual, dedicated young man in love with God and serving him to the fullest.

Hopefully by writing this, I can help his parents or someone by saying I do understand their pain and loss.

I lost my son to suicide 10 months ago — away at school, 22 years old, a great young man full of life and love for people, who loved his Lord and was ready to go home.

I understand the pain, the aches in the chest continuously, the agony of unknown questions, the ifs and whys to be. Even though Brad was on a mission trip he wanted to be on, there was a reason for his early departure. God only needed a special angel.

No one can help you or ease your pain, but you in your own time and way.

Lean on your faith, family, and church for support. In fact, you will draw even closer to the Lord and feel his presence and security. Just dwell on the pleasant memories and what he did for you as parents and others in enlightening their lives.

You'll find yourself crying

without ceasing, but that's okay. But joyful tears will come by focusing on the beauty of his life, and where you know he is and is doing what he wanted. Just in knowing you'll see him again in heaven. Death is not final, it's only the beginning of a new day and new life.

My prayer is you'll find peace and love and comfort in knowing God cares and so do others such as I. God is our strength and refuge in times of trouble.

Barbara Peterson  
Pickensville, Ala.

## Thanks from field

Editor:

It has been good to hear that many Mississippi Baptist churches, like my home church of First Church, Long Beach, have reached their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering [goals]. My wife Lynn and I are Southern Baptists first (and as of yet the only) missionaries in the West African country of Guinea Bissau. This offering is so important in keeping career missionaries on the field year after year so that we can present the gospel clearly to the world's different peoples.

We wish to thank all the Mississippi Baptist churches for their support as we work together to present the gospel to the Fulani people of Guinea Bissau.

Michael Hutchinson  
Bissau, Guinea Bissau

## Defends Vardaman

Editor:

Thank you for your fairness and responsiveness to the Christian concerns as they continue to mount in these days. So many issues need addressing, but I need to speak to these two:

[Jerry] Johnson's concern (Letters to the Editor, Feb. 3) in regard to Jerry Vardaman's "Another View" letter in relation to a published article quoting W.A. Criswell's view of the Bible as infallible, can awaken the "comfortable Christian" to remind all parties concerned, which includes even me, that we are too near the decisive moment to be focusing on any but the vital issue, winning the lost.

Jerry Vardaman is much more than "a fine man and a respected professor." I know him as a former pastor and teacher, one who is imminently qualified to teach, preach, and write for *The Baptist Record* Sunday School lesson commentaries. If Johnson can "only surmise from this statement (Criswell needs to rethink his view of the Bible as infallible) that Vardaman does not believe in the infallibility of the Bible," I can surmise otherwise. Vardaman did not say the Bible is not infallible, and I agree with Vardaman's assessment of Criswell's views on pastoral authority. My Bible teaches that the ONE authority is Jesus Christ.

And I do not wish to take any credit from Criswell for his many

years of service in the kingdom of God.

I will, too, (reference the Mississippi Baptist president's plea) be praying for all Baptist leaders everywhere that every one of them and all of us will relinquish everything in prayer as we plead for us all to seek only the will of God in the lordship of Jesus.

How long can we contend with one another over power and procedures when Satan believes he already has won in government, the media, and the schools, and has assaulted the church worldwide with such force he is still gaining ground. If we don't turn him back....

Agnes Harpole  
West Point

## Urges opposition

Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Christian Life Commission for its courageous stand against the president's health care reform plan. The president's plan, if passed in its present form, will cover abortions, meaning that there will be more taxpayer-funded abortions. More babies will be killed in the abortion clinics, with the taxpayers having to pick up the tab.

But there's more. The president's plan calls for price controls, regional alliances (which all health care providers will have to join, and which will decide what kind of health insurance we will get), and the creation of new federal agencies (meaning more bureaucracy and paper work, and more federal government control of health care); and even covers smokers.

To sum it all up, the president's Health Security Act will be disastrous for America. It will bring in socialized medicine. We do not need that kind of health care system. It is socialist and totalitarian. We must send our Congressmen a message: Kill the president's Health Security Act!

Kevin Waller  
Bude

## Thanks for support

Editor:

I would like to express my thanks to Mississippi Baptists for their faithful support during my preparation for the ministry to which God has called me.

As a missionary kid on the foreign mission field, I grew up with plenty of opportunities to see Southern Baptists' cooperative dollars at work. A few years later I came face to face once again with Baptist support while earning a church music degree at Mississippi College. My wife and I owe much to Mississippi churches for their contributions, both personal and cooperative, to both of our college educations. We are currently living in Fort Worth, Texas, while I complete a master of music degree at Southwestern Seminary — and we continue to feel the love and support of our

fellow Mississippians through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, New Zion Church of Crystal Springs, and First Church of Morton. Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for playing such a vital role in our preparation for serving the Lord in the music ministry.

Doug Spires  
Fort Worth, Texas

## Responds to claims

Editor:

As the senior Mississippi representative on the Coordinating Council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, I feel that I must respond to a recent editorial and several letters to the editor in *The Baptist Record*. Many inaccurate statements have been made about CBF from "teaching false doctrines" to attempting to sidetrack the mission efforts of the Foreign Mission Board. The fundamentalist/conservative wing of the SBC has tried to force CBF into a new denomination, when CBF continues to be composed of mainstream Southern Baptists who have helped to lay the very framework of the Convention. The national CBF leadership includes distinguished past SBC presidents, agency heads, Baptist college and seminary presidents, and other former SBC leaders. These God-called men and women continue their roles of service to all Baptists.

The Feb. 3 letter to the editor by ["Cap"] Pooser of Brookhaven demonstrates the Don Quixote mentality that too many of fundamentalist/conservative brothers have embraced during these past years of controversy. Since there are no "liberals" remaining within the SBC, in order to justify the continued existence of their movement, they have found a new "enemy." Claiming exclusively for their side "the power of the risen Christ with the gospel of God's sovereign grace to sinners," is presumptuous indeed.

The Mississippi CBF has not been a highly organized and visible group because of the lack of controversy within our state. Mississippi Baptists have resisted the outside influences to bring us into the fracas that threatens the peace and spiritual prosperity of the current SBC.

We are in no way competing with the Foreign or Home Mission Board. After all, with a world of over 3 billion lost souls, there is more than enough area of witness for all Bible-believing evangelical groups.

So, I disagree with those trying to isolate CBF as a new denomination or a "disloyal faction of the SBC." Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Paul may have been prophetic even to the current SBC schism when he wrote in Galatians 5:15, "If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroying each other" (NIV).

John J. McGraw  
Laurel



== You don't work alone . . . we're right alongside you . . . and lo, He is with us always. ==

# alongside



Thursday  
February 17, 1994

This issue of *alongside* is a supplement to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



## GEOCHRON: The New World Timepiece

by  
Marjean Patterson

When the WMU, SBC, headquarters building was occupied approximately ten years ago, various SBC agencies sent beautiful artifacts to be displayed in the fresh new magnificent building which resides on top of Missionary Ridge on Highway 280 in Birmingham.

My favorite of all the beautiful pieces in the building is a GEOCHRON, given to WMU, SBC, by the Brotherhood Commission. For years now, when I've been in our headquarters building, I have stood for long periods of time in front of the GEOCHRON and have observed where the dark portions of the world were and where the light was shining.

Now I have a GEOCHRON of my very own! It looks like a framed world map, about three feet by two feet in size. It is hanging on the south wall in my office at the Baptist Building.

GEOCHRON indicates the correct time everywhere. It shows the days of the week and the dates of the month. Most fascinating to me is that GEOCHRON's world map moves slowly from left to right under the protective screen at one inch per hour. It completes the cycle in twenty four hours, just as the earth does.

Introduced in 1964, thousands of GEOCHRONs are now used in government, business, science, education buildings, and private homes by people concerned with knowing what time it is in parts of the world remote from their own.

Come by my office sometime and enjoy this wonder of modern technology with me! I promise you will experience several different sensations as you gaze at it. You'll look at the various countries in the world, some of them in darkness, others in the light, and you'll think of missionaries you know and love and for whom you pray. At certain times during the day, North and South America are bathed in the light, while most of the rest of the world is in the darkness. That's the way it is, I think. We've had so many opportunities to hear the gospel proclaimed in our part of the world, while there are still so many truly dark spots in the world because of the lack of the knowledge of Jesus.

As I look at the GEOCHRON I feel so grateful for the wonderful opportunity to have had access to the gospel all my life; I feel great satisfaction in being part of an organization which is dedicated to sharing the light of Jesus with everyone in the world; and I bask in the wonder of knowing that the world still resides in the hand of God and that there's always a sunrise just beyond the darkest night.

## Annual Meeting Will Convene at Broadmoor, Jackson

The beautiful Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson will be the location of our 1994 Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting.

"Serve in Christ's Name," the 1993-94 WMU theme has been selected as the theme for the meeting which will be held on March 18 - 19.

Two national WMU leaders will be featured on our program. They are June Whitlow, associate executive director, and Trudy Johnson, missions involvement specialist.

Other speakers include foreign missionaries Dr. Earl Hewitt of Ghana and Mrs. Tom Martin of Bolivia; Loretta Rivers, home missionary from New Orleans; and Kaye Wilson, Mississippi College School of Nursing, who is active in volunteer mission work.



**SERVE  
in Christ's Name**

Three conferences will be held simultaneously at 10:00, 11:00 and 1:15 on Friday. Leading the conferences will be Jennifer Kennedy Dean, author and speaker, whose theme will be prayer; Laura Fry Allen, speaker and author, will be speaking on ministry and life-style evangelism; and Marjean Patterson and June Whitlow, who will be sharing about what's happening in WMU.

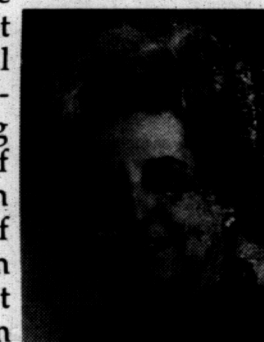
General sessions will be Friday afternoon in the Broadmoor sanctuary from 2:30 - 4:30 and Friday evening 6:30 - 8:30, while the Saturday session is from 9:30 until 11:30.

Parents of Mississippi home and foreign missionaries will be honored Friday afternoon during the session and at a banquet Friday evening. BNF will also have a banquet Friday evening featuring June Whitlow. Flags of the nations will be on parade and the Hands of Praise Deaf Choir from Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson will sign special music Friday night.

Musicians for the weekend will be Mrs. Larry (Betty Jo) Lewis, director/soloist, from Atlanta; Mrs. Bob (Mary) Simmons, organist, from Meridian; and Mrs. Garland (June) McKee, pianist, from Clinton.



Trudy  
Johnson



June  
Whitlow

### A Word from the President



I hope that you have marked March 18 and 19 on your calendars. Our WMU Annual Meeting at Broadmoor in Jackson will be such an inspirational experience. We are looking forward to foreign, home and volunteer missionary speakers; a special breakfast for former board members; wonderful music and exciting mission opportunities. This is always a great time of fellowship. There are new things happening in WMU. Plan to be a part of our Annual Meeting so that we can share them together.

Sandra Nash



## It's not too late to 'Make a Difference' next weekend!

Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women will be treated to a retreat, February 25-26 at Camp Garaywa. The theme of the retreat 'Making a Difference' is taken from the title of the book, "You. Can Make a Difference" by Betty Bock. Ms. Bock will be the keynote speaker for the retreat along with Stuart Calvert of Ashland, author of "Uniquely Gifted."

Sharon Vincent, new Baptist Young Women specialist at WMU, SBC, will be on hand along with Helen Johnson of Clarksdale who works with the Crisis Pregnancy Center. Leading music will be Cindy Coon of the state WMU staff and Patsy Rogers of Jackson, teacher in Pearl schools. Our state WMU staff will lead in a time of renewal, release, and reunion. Pam Smith of MC physical education staff, will lead in relaxation exercises.

There will be dialoguing on Mississippi River Ministry with Helen Johnson, Partnership missions with Bill Hardy, Child Advocacy with Kay Cassibry, BNF with Vicki McCall, and crafts on missions with the Calhoun Association WMU. The Baptist Book Store will be open with autograph sessions with Betty Bock and Stuart Calvert.

Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium, supper at 6:00 on the 25th and the retreat concludes with lunch on Saturday the 26th. The cost is \$23 per person. Pre-registration must be made through Camp Garaywa, 924-7034. For those women who would like to come but are not staying overnight, there is a \$2 registration fee plus meal charges.

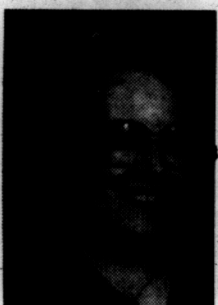
Join us next weekend and send your pre-registration today!



Sharon  
Vincent



Cindy  
Coon



Patsy  
Rogers



Helen  
Johnson

## 1994 Calendar Woman's Missionary Union

Month	Date	Event	Location	Time
February	5	GA/Acteen Day	William Carey College	1:30 - 6:30 p.m.
	12	Small Church Conference	FBC, Newton	9 a.m. - noon
	19	GA/Acteen Day	Mississippi College	3:00 - 7:30 p.m.
	20-23	Home Mission Study		
	25-26	BW/BYW Prayer Retreat	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	4 p.m., Fri. - lunch, Sat.
March	6-13	Week of Prayer for Home Missions		
	18-19	WMU Annual Meeting	Broadmoor, Jackson	10 a.m., Fri. - noon, Sat.
	26	GA Day	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
April	9	BNF Getaway Day	Harrisburg, Tupelo	8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
	15-16	GA Father/Daughter Overnight	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	4 p.m., Fri. - 3p.m., Sat.
May		WMU Special Day emphasis		
	16	Associational Leader Training	FBC, Tupelo	6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	17	Associational Leader Training	FBC, Greenwood	6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	19	Associational Leader Training	FBC, Brandon	6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	21	Associational Leader Training	FBC, Hattiesburg	9:30 a.m. - noon
June	1-3	GA mini-camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Wed. - 10 a.m., Fri.
	6-10	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
	13-17	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
	20-24	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
	27-	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
	July 1			
July	4-6	Acteen mini-camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - 10 a.m., Wed.
	6-8	GA mini-camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	1 p.m., Wed. - lunch, Fri.
	11-15	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
	18-22	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
	22-23	GA Mother/Daughter Wknd (gr. 1 & 2)	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	4 p.m., Fri. - 3p.m., Sat.
	25-29	GA camp	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	10 a.m., Mon. - lunch, Fri.
August	2 & 4	CLT/ALT (day & evening sessions on each date)	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	9:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.
	3	CLT/ALT	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	9:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
	5-6	WMU Summit	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	3 p.m., Fri. - 11:30, Sat.
September	12-15	Week of Prayer for State Missions		
	23-24	GA Mother/Daughter Overnight	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	4 p.m., Fri. - 3p.m., Sat.
	23-24	Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	4 p.m., Fri. - noon, Sat.
October	7-8	BW/BYW Retreat	Camp Lake Stephens, Oxford	4 p.m., Fri. - noon, Sat.
	15	GA Day	Central Hills	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
November	11-12	Acteens Leader/Member weekend	Camp Garaywa, Clinton	5:30 p.m., Fri. - lunch, Sat.
	20-23	Foreign Mission Study - Europe		
December	4-11	Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions		



### WMU Disaster Relief Unit will be in these places for viewing:

**Feb. 22** Wheeler Grove  
(Prentiss Assn) 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
**Feb. 23** FBC Holly Springs  
(Marshall Assn) 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
**May 17** Clark Assn Office,  
Quitman 5:00-7:00 p.m.

We still need \$30,000 to pay-off  
our unit.

**Items needed for Disaster Relief:**  
Sheets for bunk beds/pillow  
cases  
pillows  
blankets  
toilet paper  
towels/bath cloths  
toothpaste  
soap  
dishwashing liquid  
paper goods  
dishcloths/towels  
folding chairs  
Kleenex

first aid kits  
folding table  
door mats

**Personal Hygiene kits for disaster  
victims: (personal or travel sizes)**

ziploc bags  
bath soap  
bathcloth  
razor  
deodorant  
shampoo  
toothpaste  
toothbrush  
Bible, tracts  
comb

**Kits for mothers with babies:**

wipes  
powder  
lotion  
disposable diapers  
pacifier  
**optional:** individual formulas,  
pins, cups, crackers

### ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

**May 16** - FBC, Tupelo 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. (Mon.)  
**May 17** - FBC, Greenwood 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. (Tues.)  
**May 19** - FBC, Brandon 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. (Thurs.)  
**May 21** - FBC, Hattiesburg 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (Sat.)  
**Aug. 2** - Camp Garaywa 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Tues.)  
**Aug. 4** - Camp Garaywa 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Thurs.)  
**Aug. 5 - 6** Camp Garaywa 3:00 p.m. (Fri.) - 11:30 a.m. (Sat.)  
(WMU Summit)

### CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

**July 7 - 9** Gulfshore 7:40 p.m. (Thurs.) - 12:00 p.m. (Sat.)  
**July 14 - 16** Gulfshore 7:40 p.m. (Thurs.) - 12:00 p.m. (Sat.)  
**July 28 - 30** Gulfshore 7:40 p.m. (Thurs.) - 12:00 p.m. (Sat.)  
**Aug. 4 - 6** Gulfshore 7:40 p.m. (Thurs.) - 12:00 p.m. (Sat.)  
**Aug. 2** Camp Garaywa 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.;  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m. (Tues.)  
**Aug. 3** Camp Garaywa 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Wed.)  
**Aug. 4** Camp Garaywa 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.;  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m. (Thurs.)  
**Aug. 5 - 6** Camp Garaywa 3:00 p.m. (Fri.) - 11:30 a.m. (Sat.)  
(WMU Summit)



## Nurses will 'Getaway' on April 9



Dr. Fred Loper

The annual Baptist Nursing Fellowship Getaway Day will be held on April 9 at Harrisburg Baptist Church in Tupelo. Activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 per person and payable to BNF Getaway, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, 39205 or call WMU for a registration form.

Activities will include speakers, singing, skits and a time of prayer and testimonies.



Mrs. Fred Loper

We are so happy to have Dr. and Mrs. Fred Loper of the Home Mission Board as our keynote speakers for this event. Dr. Loper is a medical missionary in Oklahoma City serving as a resource person for HMB, providing information and guidance to people and churches, conducting workshops and medical ministries. He has written "Beginning a Ministry with People with AIDS" for the "Ministry Models Series" published by HMB. Dr. Loper was featured in the January issue of Royal Service. At the Getaway Day, Dr. Loper will be highlighting the Mississippi River Ministry and opportunities for nurses to serve.

We would like to invite all members of BNF and medical personnel who are interested, to 'Getaway' with us on April 9 for this enriching experience.



## BNF Wants You to Know About These Needs...

### Mississippi-Honduras Partnership

Nurses are needed to serve on Medical/Dental projects throughout the year. Supplies needed are scissors, thread, cloth, irons, safety pins, pencils, paper, coloring books, diapers. Contact Mackie Davis, Hattiesburg or Partnership office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. 968-3800.

### Mississippi River Ministry - Crisis Pregnancy Center

Needs are baby blankets, baby clothes, powder, wipes, diapers and diaper bags, pacifiers, items for mothers. Contact Helen Johnson, P. O. Box 999, Clarksdale.

### Rio Grande Ministry

Need volunteer nurses to help with lab work and assist with dentists and medications. Supplies needed: vitamins, ointments, ear drops, benadryl, tylenol, batteries, ziploc bags, diapers. Contact: Delores York, Rt. 1, Box 93-E, La Feria, Texas 78559

### Columbia, South America

Needs: used eyeglasses  
Contact: Shirley Chapman, 2485 Gina Dr., Pearl, MS 39208

### Eku, Nigeria

Needs: Rolled bandages for missionary Dr. Martha Hagood. Contact: Dr. John McFadden, The Pain Clinic, 320 S. Gloster St. Tupelo, 38801

### Burundi, Africa

Needs: nurses, med techs, for periods of 1-3 weeks. Contact: Mary Arrington, FMB, 1-800-888-8657.

## It's My Turn Now! Camp Garaywa Summer 1994

### GA Overnights at Camp Garaywa

\$23.00 per person (includes meals, lodging, crafts, & limited insurance)

**WHAT TO BRING:** Sleeping bag or single sheets, pillowcase, towels, washcloths, casual clothes, sleepwear, comfortable shoes, sweater or jacket, raincoat, personal items, Bible, paper & pencil, (a one-piece swimsuit with a cover-up for July overnight only).

### FATHER/DAUGHTER (Grades 1 - 6)

April 15-16, 1994  
Fri. 4 p.m. - Sat. 3 p.m.  
Reg. Deadline April 11.

### MOTHER/DAUGHTER (Grades 1 & 2 only!)

July 22-23, 1994  
Fri. 4 p.m. - Sat. 3 p.m.  
Reg. Deadline July 18.

### MOTHER/DAUGHTER (Grades 1 - 6)

September 23-24, 1994  
Fri. 4 p.m. - Sat. 3 p.m.  
Reg. Deadline September 19.

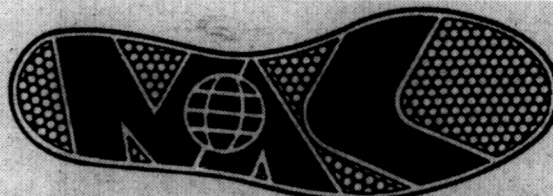
Send registration to: **Camp Garaywa**, P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060.

## ATTENTION GA/ACTEEN DIRECTORS

Registration forms for GA/ACTEENS camps for the Summer of '94 were mailed the first of February. All church GA and Acteen directors should have received these.

For CIT (Counselor-In-Training) applications, contact WMU, (601) 968-3800, ext. 3916.

If you did not receive registration forms and your church has girls who would like to register for Camp Garaywa this summer, please call the WMU office at 968-3800 or call Camp Garaywa at 924-7034. Please send your church registration to Camp Garaywa on April 1. **THESE WEEKS FILL UP FAST!**



## NAC June 21-24, 1994

### SCHEDULE

#### Tuesday, June 21

10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Registration
12:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Destinations and Book Store
6:40 p.m.	Presession music
7:00 p.m.	General Session
9:00 p.m.	Concert

#### Wednesday, June 22

8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Registration
8:45 a.m.	Presession Music
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	General Session
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Bible Study
11:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Conferences
11:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Destinations and Book Store
6:40 p.m.	Presession music
7:00 p.m.	General Session
8:30 p.m.	Happy Birthday Acteens

#### Thursday, June 23

8:45 a.m.	Presession Music
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	General Session
10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.	Bible Study
11:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Conferences
11:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Destinations and Book Store
6:40 p.m.	Presession music
7:00 p.m.	General Session

#### Friday, June 24

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Bible Study
10:15 a.m.	Presession music
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	General Session

### ACTEEN CHEER CONTEST AT NAC!

If your Acteens would like to compete in the Acteens Cheer Contest at NAC on June 21-24, please send a video to:

**Acteens Cheer on Video**  
Hwy 280 East  
100 Missionary Ridge  
Birmingham, AL 35242-5235

Videos will be judged on creativity, spirit and teamwork. The top five winners will perform at NAC. The deadline for videos is April 21, 1994.

## GA DAY CAMP GARAYWA

### Saturday, March 26

Missionaries, Music, Mission Projects

**\$3.00 each** **Grades 1-6**

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch  
(includes drinks & limited insurance)

Registration limited so sign up early!

or

## GA DAY CENTRAL HILLS

Saturday, October 15



**GA DAY at Camp Garaywa**  
**March 26, 1994**

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Association \_\_\_\_\_  
Church Add. \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Sending Form \_\_\_\_\_  
# people X \$3.00/person = \$\_\_\_\_\_ (enclosed)

Make check payable to **Camp Garaywa**

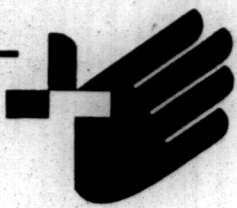
Mail to: **GA DAY, CAMP GARAYWA**,  
P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060

*alongside*



## IT'S YOUR SERVE

Minister in Christ's Name



### HEALING WATER

(based on John 5:1-9)

Jesus came to Bethesda where all the sick people lay  
Those who were blind, halt, and withered,  
waiting for the special day  
When the angel would stir up the water, giving it power to cure  
And the first person able to get in, would be made whole for sure.

For thirty-eight years he had lain there, lame and unable to get  
To the pool when the waters were troubled, so alone on his mat he sat  
His heart was always on healing, his mind only asked, "What's the use?"  
With no one to take him to water, he would have to give in to the truth.

A miracle for him just could not be: this wasn't a part of God's plan  
A dirty old mat spread on the ground is all that's to come to this man  
He had no thought on waking, his life would be changed by the Lord;  
He did not know there was power to heal, found in the Master's word.

"Would you be made well?" Christ asked him. The man didn't know what to say  
He had no idea that the Master would become the Pool for him that day  
There would be no stirring of water and he would not even get wet,  
For the Waters of Strength had found him, Jehovah God he had met.

Like the man who for thirty-eight years, sat by the pool on his mat,  
Lame I was I found in my spirit, sluggish, hopeless and fat  
Atrophied, having no walk with God, powerless, joyless and cold  
A very faint memory of time long ago, of standing firm with the bold

A friend came and lifted my crippled soul, and took it to the Pool again  
The waters were stirred by the prayers he had raised, my mat moved by his helping hand.  
He took me again to my Savior, to refresh my tired, battered soul,  
He shared with me again the water, clear, thirst-quenching and cold

When our brother we see by the wayside,  
limping or downed by life's pain,  
Carry him ever so gently, to the Pool of Healing again.  
An encounter again with the Savior will refresh the one tired and sore  
Partake of the Water He gives you, and be renewed with His Life once more.

by Mark Coon, minister of recreation  
Alta Woods BC, Jackson

## Serve in Christ's Name

an editorial

I had a phone call the other day. A faithful WMU lady needed some information and then asked, "Why is the Royal Service full of all these social issues? Why can't we hear about what the missionaries are doing?" I thought about that statement for awhile after that. I live in the city limits of Jackson. The statistics show that Jackson rates in the top five nationwide in crime. My children go to public schools, my husband has to patrol our church daily for break-ins. I have family members who have been robbed and attacked. I lost a cousin to AIDS last summer. Even at church we have dealt with teenage pregnancy and abortion in a personal way. To me, the word Christian means "Christ-like." To be like Christ means to spend time with the lame, the blind, the poor, the hungry and seek to meet their physical needs in order to meet their spiritual needs. To be like Christ means to see people as Jesus sees them, as needy people.

The Season of Prayer for Home Missions is a time of study and prayer and giving for our beloved country. The Home Mission Study, the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, Home Mission Day in Sunday School and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are all components of the Season of Prayer. This Season should lead us into the Hope for Hurting Humanity emphasis this summer with a renewed spirit for ministry.

Perhaps we are like the blind man in the poem, needing Jesus' healing hand. Perhaps, we need to be a healing hand for those about us who are hurting. There is no question that our nation needs the "Christ-like" touch, our touch. Ask the Lord what part He would have you to play in His service during these very special emphases.

## HOPE FOR HURTING HUMANITY

"Hope for Hurting Humanity" is part of the Bold Mission Thrust denominational emphasis for the church year 1993-94. HHH has the potential to involve every Southern Baptist in ministry, performing redemptive, loving service for people in the name and spirit of Christ. Nationwide simultaneous ministry/witness projects will be conducted during the six week period of June 19 to July 31, 1994.

What is meant by *project*:

- a single ministry-based activity in which the church family participates
- one activity with multiple components which may be conducted by various organizations/groups/classes within the church
- a series of programs to meet a variety of needs in the community

The Bible bears witness to the truth that God chose to work through His people to accomplish His purposes in the world. He could have worked everything out Himself, but He chose not to do it that way. The scripture records how God called individuals to accomplish His purpose. When these individuals understood His call and responded, God worked through them to accomplish mighty things. Hope for Hurting Humanity is one Southern Baptist response to accomplish God's purpose.

If your church would be willing to respond, please contact the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for more information.

WMU

# Special Day

1994

Theme:  
From the Heart...  
**GIVE**  
*Luke 12:34 (KJV)*

**Edwina Robinson**  
Special Day Offering  
**\$57,000**

**GIVE** it Special Attention at your April meetings.

**GIVE** program materials early to BW, BYW, Acteen and GA leaders!

**GIVE** more that before! Help meet the special day goal this year!

## alongside

published by Mississippi WMU

Marjean Patterson	Executive Director
Ashley McCaleb	BW/BYW Campus BYW
	Consultant
Jan Cossitt	Acteens Consultant
Kay Cassibry	GA/Mission Friends
	Consultant
Helen Price	GA Camp Director
Cheryl Brabham	Mailfile Secretary
Pam Price	Office Secretary
Bob Dent	Camp Manager
Cindy Coon	Secretary to the Director/Editor

alongside



## Mississippi College —

## Integrating faith, discipline: faculty member's perspective

At a Christian institution, we recognize there is distinctiveness in what we do. We should prepare students for careers as well or better than they could be prepared at any other institution. But what more is our responsibility? I am reminded of Luke 9:25 (my version): "What does it profit a student if she/he gains the whole world (does well in a career) and loses her/his own soul (missed out on the real meaning of life)?"

We need to look at where our students are developmentally in

the growth of their faith and then to determine ways in which faculty members can facilitate the development of that faith in the teaching of the various disciplines.

Most of our students, even older, more mature ones, are at the searching level of faith development as they seek to find a personal faith that they can own. Even though many have expressed a faith in God, they have not worked through the searching process. We hope, of course, that while they are at Mississippi College they

will have the opportunity to continue their search and to find answers they need to leave here with an owned faith that will guide them the rest of their lives.

Faculty members are in a strategic position to assist students in the development of their faith while they are in college. There are many ways in which individual faculty members find their own way of integrating their faith with the teaching of their respective discipline. Following are four

ways faculty can achieve that goal.

1. **Serve as models.** To serve as appropriate models, we are responsible for growing in our own faith, identifying our weaknesses, and working hard to move to higher levels of maturity. When we grow, we become more caring people and that translates into caring about the students we teach. Students know when we care, and often the very act of caring creates within students the desire to emulate those qualities they may see in us which are expressions of our faith.

2. **Affirm students' need and efforts to search and question.** As you recall, Jesus was not hard on Thomas for his doubts (John 20:25). Even though he was skeptical, Thomas was still loyal to the believers and to Jesus himself. Some need to doubt before they believe. Doubt is healthy if it leads to questions and questions lead to answers and the answers are accepted. When students doubt, faculty members can encourage them not to stop there, but to let their doubt deepen their faith as they continue to search for answers.

3. **Affirm the Christian values** we see students claiming, particularly the options they consider in decision-making.

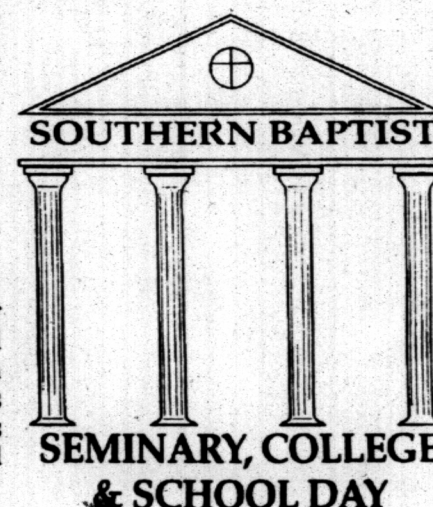
We can help students strengthen their faith and move to higher levels of morality when we reward altruistic behaviors we see in them and help them look at options which reflect Christian values which they had not considered before in making decisions.

4. **Allow them to face adversity.** Students will not deny the fact that they face adversity and difficulty while in college. It goes with the territory. When we as faculty

members care about students, we are concerned about their struggles and problems. We can serve as encouragers and enablers but they have to work things out for themselves. At some point, we all have to learn to dig deep inside ourselves, to develop a faith that will carry us over the long haul of life.

Certainly, as Christians, our faith can be strengthened when we face adversity. We need only to be reminded of the testing of biblical characters such as Abraham and Job. We often do not know the strength of our faith until it is tested. Our students need challenge and adversity, in concert with caring, Christian faculty, who can point them to the source of strength greater than us all.

— Written by Bettye R. Coward, professor and head, Department of Home Economics and Physical Education, Mississippi College.



FEBRUARY 20, 1994

Sponsored by the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

## HEALTHCARE

## FOR THE RECORD

## Baptist treats the whole woman for her whole life.

## The Healthcaring Center for Women at MBMC

An extension of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, The Healthcaring Center for Women was created specifically to serve the special needs of women in the Central Mississippi area. It was designed to offer helpful information to women at every stage of life — from the turbulent teen years... through career, marriage and child-bearing phases... to middle age and beyond.

Our goal is to provide women with an assortment of resources for dealing with any life-changes or problems they may face — physically, socially or emotionally. We provide information and guidance on a variety of issues such as nutrition, fitness, pregnancy and parenting, while offering preventive care like wellness evaluations, screening mammograms and osteoporosis

screening. Our center hosts ongoing seminars on topics of concern to women. We also offer programs and speakers to church groups and civic clubs. Topics can be tailored to meet the group's needs. We offer physician referrals for women not yet affiliated with a local doctor; and we work to complement the services of area physicians by providing an extensive resource library of additional reading material on a variety of medical topics and other areas of women's concerns. In a world full of misinformation, the Healthcaring Center for Women is a refreshing source of comfort for women being pulled in too many directions.

Call 973-3180 for more information about upcoming events or to make an appointment. After-hours and Saturday appointments are available.

## Healthcaring Center for Women



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

We're healthcaring for the whole family.

1405 North State Street, Suite 402  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

## Dear Pastor:

*Are you hurting? Has the world come tumbling down on top of you? Do you feel like all hope is gone for you to ever be happy in the ministry again?*

*For several years the Pass Road Baptist Church at Gulfport has had the privilege of nursing back to health many pastors who have been wounded in the ministry. Pastors who have lost either their churches, their families, or their confidence.*

*It has been our joy to see many of them renewed in the spirit and confidence of our Lord and restored in vigor and vitality to lead successful ministries once again.*

*Beginning March 7 the annual GREATER GULF COAST BIBLE CONFERENCE hosted by Pass Road Baptist Church will convene. This year as every year we will have a great line-up of conference speakers with one goal in mind. That goal? To challenge pastors and lay leaders and those who are hurting to a renewed zeal for the cause of Christ. If you need this blessing in your life we invite you to participate with us March 7-11.*



# Just for the Record

The Chickasaw County Association will have its annual Evangelism Rally Feb. 21, 7 p.m., at First Church, Okolona. Jim Futral, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, will speak. Turning Point, a music ministry team of the BSU at Itawamba Community College, will bring special music and testimonies. Rick Burton, pastor, First Church, Houlka, is evangelism director for the association.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center recently received a unique piece of hospital history. Harvey Hedgepeth, a former member of the Board of Trustees for more than 20 years, presented Executive Director M. Kent Strum with a billing statement, circa 1936, from the old Baptist Hospital. The framed statement, which included surgery charges, totaled \$19.50. According to Hedgepeth, the patient's hospital expenses were less than the physician's fees, which in 1936 were about \$25.

Telestials from Nashville will sing at the following locations: Feb. 19, 7 p.m. Mt. Zion Church, Walnut Grove; Feb. 20, 11 a.m., New County Line Church, Edin-

burg; and Feb. 20, 6:45 p.m., Leesburg Church, Leesburg. For more information call 854-5306.

**The Isaacs — The Spokesmen and Hermon Trulove** will be in concert at Lakeside Auditorium, eight miles north of Philadelphia on Hwy. 19, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call Beverly Rives at 323-8188.

Priority, a gospel group, will sing at Union Church, Picayune, on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. For more information, call the church at 798-6470. Terry Ledbetter is pastor.

First Church, Picayune, has received the largest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in the church's history. The church gave more than \$30,000 which was \$5,000 more than the previous record. R.T. Buckley, former missionary to Bangladesh, helped to remind the church of the need on the mission field and the church responded. Lucile Gillis is WMU director. Raymon Leake is pastor.

Mt. Moriah Church, Bogue Chitto, surpassed its Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering goal of \$6,500 by \$603.12, making a total offering of \$7,103.12. Danny Moss is pastor.

Liberty Church, Mississippi Association, set a goal of \$5,300 for its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The total amount received was \$7,290. Betty Duck is WMU director. Gary Bowlin is interim pastor.

Pearl Valley Church, Copiah Association, contributed over \$1,800 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The previous highest total was \$400. The congregation responded to a pastoral challenge to support foreign missions. David Langston of Brandon is interim pastor.

Mississippi College will offer a series of reviews to aid students preparing for the upcoming ACT testing. Review sessions will be held on Saturday, March 5 and March 26. For further details, contact the Division of Continuing Education by calling 925-3264.

Living Beyond Your Limits, a workshop for singles, will be hosted by First Church, Jackson, March 4-6. Registration begins at 6 p.m. on March 4. The featured speaker will be evangelist Andy Morgan, former host of Detroit's "Solo Flight" nightly radio talk show. Points of Grace will present a concert March 5 at 7 p.m. Call (601) 949-1906 to pre-register or for more information.

The annual meeting of the WMU will be held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, March 18-19. All former members of the WMU executive boards are invited to attend a breakfast in their honor, March 19 at 7:30 a.m. in the youth room of the church. Please send reservation requests to WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, and \$3 to cover the cost of the breakfast and postage. Deadline for reservations is March 1.

Alcorn Association's Church Media Organization (TACMO) will host a church media library workshop Feb. 19 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the associational office in Corinth. Pat Brown, Baptist Sunday School Board church media library consultant, will lead the program, "Classification and Cataloging." Lunch reservations should be made by calling the association: (601) 286-8215.



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# Staff Changes

Kevin Bower has been called as minister of youth at First Church, Braxton (Simpson Association), effective Feb. 6. Bower is a senior at Mississippi College. Sammy J. McDonald is pastor.

Chester W. Masterson Jr. has been called as associate pastor/minister of education and administration of First Church, Laurel, effective Jan. 1. Masterson goes to Laurel from North Carolina. He is a native of Vicksburg.

Randall W. Turner is pastor.

Calvary Church, West Point, has called Michael Holderfield of Biloxi as minister of music and

youth effective Feb. 6. He received his education at Mobile College. His previous place of service was Bay Vista. Walter H. Frederick is pastor.

Mark A. Rathel resigned as pastor of Bay Vista Church, Biloxi, effective Feb. 7. He has moved to First Church, Blountstown, Fla.

Ronald Finch assumed the pastorate of North Winona Church, Winona, on Dec. 6. He goes to Winona from First Church, Semmes, Ala. Finch is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

## Crestwood mission center seeks new ministry director

The board of directors at Crestwood Clinic for Christ, a free medical-dental clinic on Bailey Avenue in inner-city Jackson, is seeking a part-time director of ministry committed to sharing the gospel, ministering to spiritual and physical needs, and helping health care professionals serve in this ministry. The position will involve about 20 flexible hours per week, with all administrative

duties becoming the responsibility of the director.

"The clinic is well-equipped and has great potential for someone with vision," said Lee Cope, a dentist who provides care at the clinic and is helping coordinate the recruitment effort.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Cope at 108 Winding Hill, Clinton, MS 39056.

## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*Our 9-year-old son is easily frustrated and feels left out. My husband mocks and makes fun of him. I cringe. He says he hates his father and doesn't want to be a part of our family. I love him dearly and am concerned about his future. I'm caught in the middle.*

This is the second week in a row that we have dealt with a man's relationships within the family unit. We as men must realize the importance of our role in the lives of our families. I grant that we are tired; we give over and above the call of duty at work, and then shirk our responsibilities at home. It is not how high we climb the corporate ladder but the investment we make in our children who will some day be leading us. Mom, rather than feeling caught in the middle, be proactive but not protective. First of all, pray for your husband. Encourage your son and make "deposits" regarding his strengths and good points. Empower him to speak to his dad. Observe your husband when he is deflated or discouraged, and use that to explain how your son must feel when he is put down by his father. I recommend that men read *Point Man* by Steve Farar, who suggests that

we must be the point man in our homes so that we can raise a successful team which can withstand the "agony of defeat."

*We have a 3-year-old daughter who is very bossy toward her friends. Should we be concerned, and is there anything we can do to correct this?*

Your child is learning to control her environment. These children tend to be future leaders, so our job as parents is to channel the "bossy" energy into productive behaviors. Encouraging your daughter to speak in a kinder voice is a beginning. When she speaks nicely, reward her with praise, a small gift, or extra privileges. Rewarding good behavior means we are not just standing guard, ready to pounce on negative behavior. Also, we must let our children fail. One of these days she will meet her match. She will be hurt but will learn a mighty lesson. Let her see how it feels to be spoken-to in such a manner, and she will learn the Golden Rule without a word from you. Our job is to walk side by side with our children through this world. We are to guide, encourage, discipline, and love our children in their "natural bent."

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name and address not required. Remember: In time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

## OLD BIBLES REBOUND

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# Trustees fire president of Florida family agency

LAKELAND, Fla. (ABP) — Richard Phillips, president of Florida Baptist Family Ministries for the past 10 years, was forced to resign Feb. 3 after a daylong closed-door session of the agency's board.

"During this meeting, as well as prior committee meetings, it became apparent that the president and the board no longer share the same philosophies concerning growth, maintenance of the programs, financial management, and management techniques," the trustees said in a statement released by chair-

woman Jacqueline Perrin.

Phillips declined comment, saying only that he had agreed to the statement released by Perrin.

Florida Baptist Family Ministries has been in financial distress for more than two years. An agency of the Florida Baptist Convention, Family Ministries operates children's homes on three campuses, as well as a retirement center and group homes for the developmentally disabled.

Charles Hodges, the agency's vice president, will serve as acting president until a permanent replacement is employed.

## Revival Dates

**Center Grove, Meridian:** March 4-6; Friday, 7 p.m.; preaching conference, Saturday, 1-9 p.m.; Sunday, Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Discipleship Training, 5:30 p.m.; and worship, 6:30 p.m.; Jim Hill, Melvin, Ala.,

evangelist; Edd Holloman, pastor.

**First, Lauderdale:** Feb. 20-23; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; John Stevens, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Mike Russell, pastor.

Thursday, February 17, 1994

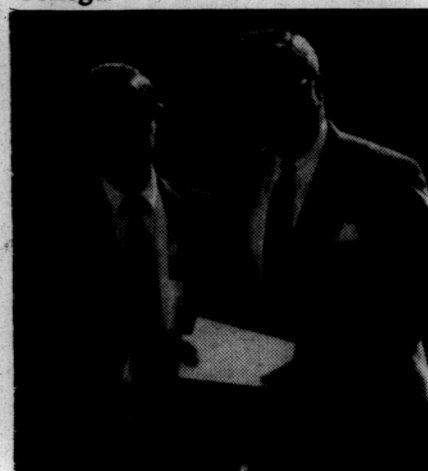
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

## Names in the News



**Ben James**, left, was ordained Jan. 26 at First Church, Hattiesburg. Pictured with him are Bob Horner, host pastor; and Bill Baker, pastor, First Church, Clinton, who gave the charge to the candidate. James is a graduate of William Carey College. He plans to graduate in May with a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. James was called as pastor of Mount Sterling Church, Butler, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1993.

**First Church, Greenwood**, will honor **John F. Gibson Jr.**, pastor for three years, upon his attaining the requirements for his doctor of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary. A reception will be held in fellowship hall on Sunday, Feb. 20, from 3 to 5 p.m. Gibson, a native of Macon, Ga., graduated from Mississippi College.

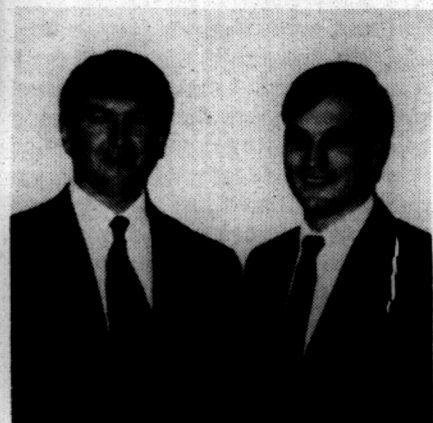


**Lonnie Dunn**, left, pastor of Trinity Church, Oxford, received checks from Don Stanfill, director of missions of Lafayette/Marshall associations. The checks presented to Dunn were gifts made available through the Pastoral and Church Building Aid Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and the Lafayette Association.

**William Sloane Coffin** will be among the featured speakers for a national ethics conference, March 14-15 at Immanuel Church, Nashville. Theme for the conference is "Turning Broken Hearts Into Helping Hands." Workshops and a session on fatherhood in America will equip attendants for action in their communities. Cost is \$95 per person, \$115 at the door. To pre-register, call the Baptist Center for Ethics, (615) 383-3192.

**Steve Wilkerson** was licensed to preach on Jan. 16 by New Zion Church, Walnut Grove. Wilkerson is available for supply and can be contacted at 267-8293. He lives in the Carthage area with his wife, Karen, and son, Steven. Barney Watkins is pastor, New Zion.

**Antioch Church, Jefferson Davis Association**, ordained **Richard L. Hamilton** (right) to the gospel ministry. Hamilton has recently been called to the pastorate of Ora Church, Covington Association. Russell Polson Jr. is pastor of Antioch Church. **Hamilton**



**First Church, Itta Bena**, held an ordination service for two newly elected deacons. Certificates were presented to **Wayne Aldridge**, left, and **Steve Hayes**, right, by Higdon Herrington, pastor.

## Vicksburg's Bill Patten dies at 47

**William R. "Bill" Patten**, 47, died of cancer on Sunday, Feb. 13. He was pastor of Highland Church, Vicksburg, at the time of his death.

Funeral services were held Feb. 15 at Highland Church with Gordon Sansing, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, officiating. Interment services were at Scotland Cemetery in Winona.

A native of Evergreen, Ala., Patten was a graduate of Clarke College, Newton; Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, Mo.; and New Orleans Seminary.

Other churches he pastored in Mississippi include Schlater Church and North Carrollton Church. He also served as minister of education at First Church, Greenwood.

Survivors includes his wife, Margaret Ingram Patten; son, Rob Patten; daughter, Rachel Patten; all of Vicksburg; father, Eugene Patten of Lillian, Ala., and three brothers.

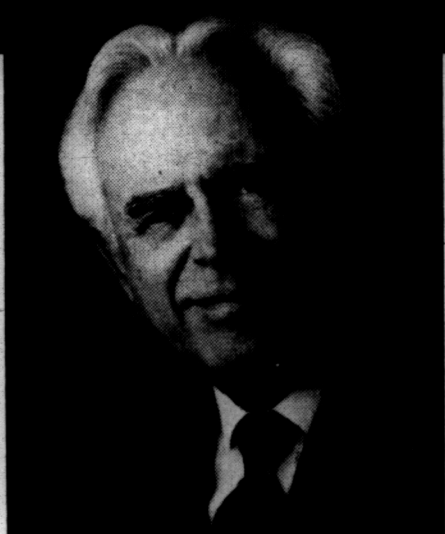


Patten

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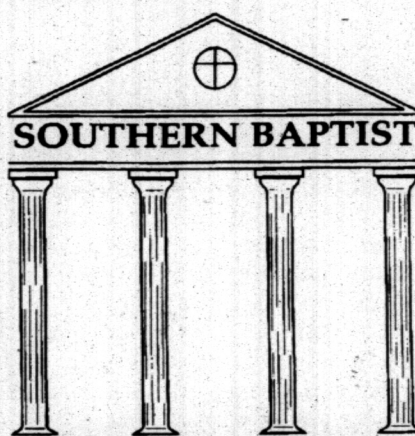
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## Uniform Acting as a servant



By Doug Bain  
Luke 22

**Jesus' last Passover (vv. 14-18).** The Passover was a Jewish festival with roots far back into their semi-nomadic past and later was merged with the agricultural Feast of Unleavened Bread. This combined festival came to commemorate deliverance from bondage in Egypt and by 621 B.C. was a pilgrimage festival in Jerusalem. It was a very meaningful week-long event. That Jesus was crucified during a commemoration of deliverance from bondage would come to be important for Christians, not only in interpreting the significance of Jesus but also as background for the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper takes its origin from observance of the Passover meal in which each aspect of the meal had rich symbolic meaning.

**The Lord's Supper (vv. 19-20).** This evening, Thursday, was apparently the day of the Passover meal itself and Jesus was about to invest an ancient rite with radically new significance. Now the New Israel which Jesus had been calling into being could commemorate deliverance from bondage in a deeper sense; here was a "Passover" in a spiritual sense. And those who internalized the symbolic elements of the meal were also taking within the style of sacrificial living and cross bearing that Jesus himself was doing at this very moment. The unleavened bread and the wine would now memorialize the body and the blood about to be offered up. To partake of the symbolic elements is to immerse oneself in Jesus' sacrificial style of living as well as to benefit from his sacrifice for us.

**The betrayer (vv. 21-23).** But how could Judas do it? Some interpreters have suggested that Judas felt Jesus was acting too slowly in bringing in his kingdom and Judas was trying to bring the issue to a head. The reason for their suggestion may be that they are trying to suggest that Jesus really did not select a disciple who "turned bad." Whatever Judas' motives, his deed still was that of betrayal.

How could it happen that the disciples saw the betrayer identified, saw him exit, and never raised any protest? The next verses may provide an answer. Since they were absorbed with advancing their own private causes, little did it matter that Judas was doing the same.

In the midst of a cosmic confrontation between the ways of the world and the ways of God, between power assertion and sacrificial servanthood, a betrayal, from inside the ranks. How could Judas do it? What kind of question is that? All had betrayed him, no doubt many times.

**True greatness (vv. 24-27).** The lesson here concerns in-house bantering about who is to be the main attraction, the centerpiece; that was what they argued about. In the midst of a spiritual revolution, the disciples disputed about who would receive the most recognition. It had been up for discussion before — this struggle for status. And they had not learned about greatness, not about little children, or foot washing, or the nature of the kingdom, or the kind of Messiah he is. They were struggling for control rather than washing feet!

He forever shatters our expectations, our preconceptions. We think the frontrunner, the one who is most "successful," is the one who exerts most control and assertively exerts most influence, the one who keeps followers subdued and in submission, the one who has the admiration of the widest circle of admirers, the one who has more accumulations, the one with the most knowledge, or the most extensive empire or the most charisma. But Jesus says, "No, it is the one who serves — he is the frontrunner in this kingdom." Low profile in this world is high profile in the kingdom. No, there is nothing wrong with ambition. But it makes all the difference in the world how that ambition is framed and aimed.

**Rewards (vv. 28-30).** Jesus declares that those who endure trials with him will receive authority from God in the coming kingdom. Part of servanthood today is being faithful to the Lord during difficult times, further living into a servant identity. Wearing the garments of a servant, through spiritual discipline acting like a servant, we may yet begin to be a servant in the style of the one whom we name as Lord.

Bain is professor of biblical and related studies, Blue Mountain College.

## Bible Book The authority of life



By Dan Howard  
John 5

Many times we want to appear to be in authority. In John 5 we see the Jewish religious leadership questioning Jesus about the authority by which he healed a man. By the way Jesus spoke and acted, he revealed that his authority was from God. The authority over life Jesus possessed and his claim to be equal with God forces us to make a decision to accept or reject his authority in our individual lives.

**A lame man healed (vv. 5-9).** Jesus had travelled to Jerusalem for a feast. While there, Jesus went to a pool which was called Bethesda, meaning "house of mercy." It had five porches filled with sick and lame people who were waiting for an opportunity to get in the water. It was a popular Jewish belief that the first person to enter the water after it began to bubble would be healed. The explanation of the healing properties of the water was supposedly due to an angel stirring the waters periodically.

In verse 5, we are told that when Jesus went to the pool he found a man who had been ill for 38 years. Notice that Jesus took the initiative in this man's healing. Verse 6 says that Jesus asked the man, "Do you wish to get well?"

We may think this is a strange question to ask someone who has been crippled for 38 years. There are some people who prefer to be sick because of the attention and sympathy their illnesses command.

Jesus told the man, "Arise, take up your pallet and walk." Jesus' command was something that the man could not do for himself. This command to "arise" demonstrates Jesus' authority over physical life.

In verse 9 we see that the man did not question Jesus' authority but obediently arose, picked up his pallet, and walked. In this act of healing, nothing is said about the man's faith. The man responded in obedience to the command of Jesus.

This healing took place on the Sabbath. Because it was forbidden by Jewish law to heal on the Sabbath or to bear a burden, Jesus had broken two Sabbath laws by healing the man and telling him to pick up his pallet. From this point forward, the Jewish leaders began to oppose Jesus, primarily on the basis of his violation of the Sabbath laws. The Jewish leaders had become more concerned about keeping the law than restoring wholeness to a person.

**The source of Jesus' authority (vv. 26-30).** The Jewish leaders understood that God was the Creator of life. The miracles of healing Jesus performed all indicated that he possessed authority over life. Jesus also stated in verse 27 that God had given him the authority to execute judgment. He goes on to state that he has been given this authority because he is the "Son of Man." The phrase "Son of Man" was Jesus' favorite expression for himself. Because he was one of us and possessed our nature, he understands us and is qualified to judge us.

In verses 28-29 we see that Jesus not only has authority over life and judgment but also the dead. Regardless of our view of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus stated that he had authority to raise the dead.

Jesus stated very clearly in verse 30 that he was not doing anything on his own or following his will. He was doing only what the Father told him. How much better would our lives be if this is the way we lived?

**The Jews' rejection of Jesus (vv. 41-47).** Because the Jewish leaders rejected him, Jesus concluded that they did not have the love of God in them. The Jewish leaders were very quick to point out that they believed Moses and the law. Jesus said that at the final judgment it would be Moses who would accuse them. The reason for this was because Moses wrote about Jesus. If they did not believe the writings of Moses about the Messiah, there was no way they would believe Jesus and the things he was saying.

The rejection of Jesus by the religious leaders of the day causes us to realize that it is not enough to be good in order to be saved. What we do with Jesus will determine where we spend eternity. How we respond to Jesus' authority over life, death, judgment, and eternity will determine how we live our lives on this earth.

Howard is pastor, Woodville Church, Woodville.

## Life and Work What is my priority?



By Billie Buckley  
Luke 12

Our Son No. 1 did not give my favorite preacher husband a new redwood bird house for his birthday to feed the squirrels. He gave it to feed the birds. Yet recently, three female cardinals retreated quickly as a bushy-tailed friend took four steps down the pecan tree, looked, then leaped to end his demanding hunger.

Our uninvited yard guest left a clear, unadorned, frank message: "These sunflower seeds are mine. Get out of my way. This belongs only to me."

Do you know someone like that? Sure you do. We live in a "me society." Do you doubt it? The most-asked questions of today are: What can I get out of this? and What is in it for me?

Jesus addressed this in our Scripture for today. He suggested that instead of a "me" and "mine" lifestyle, we do some substituting.

**Instead of gathering greedily, we communicate caring (vv. 13-15).** After refusing to get involved in a family dispute over money, Jesus warned his listeners against greed. To do this we must want more. No, not more possessions but more caring for the hurt in others.

God sees greed as sin. Why? A greedy person may call Jesus "Savior," but not "Lord." You see, greed hurts us and those around us. Jesus does not warn us; yet, he will allow us to follow this destructive way if we wish to do so. We must want to change and then change us he will — from gathering greedily to communicating to others that we care.

**Instead of hoarding, we share (vv. 16-19).** Jesus told a story about a man who thought only of keeping all he had for himself. He knew how to be a great hoarder so he could enjoy the good things of life and have it all.

There is a vast difference between working and hoarding. God honors a worker who can recognize his handiwork. The purpose of work for a Christian has never been money, fame, power, or selfish hoarding. The purpose for work is an honorable means for Christ to move into the marketplaces of life through his workers. Having it all does not come through hoarding possessions, but sharing them.

**Instead of losing it all, we find it all (vv. 20-21).** When the man died, he lost his life as well as his possessions because he had nothing of eternal value.

During his lifetime he had been a builder of barns and more barns. Yet, he failed to build that which was essential and of lasting value and hope. My faith in Jesus is the heartbeat of my hope. This hope not only gives me an escape from eternal separation from God but transforms me from one who is a loser to a finder. Strange as it may seem, we only find that which is valuable as we lose ourselves for others and their great need of Jesus' love and forgiveness and love.

**Instead of seeking success, we become committed to his kingdom (vv. 31-32).** Jesus taught his disciples that their priority should be seeking God's kingdom or God's will to be done. Then he gives us both — the kingdom and the things we need. When we make this commitment, God can be trusted to take care of us.

Have we made that commitment? To find the answer to that question we need to ask other questions. Has our commitment to Christ cost us anything today? Has it made a difference in any decision we have made lately?

Another question to be asked is, "What is success?" May I suggest that real success comes by means of our being faithful to his plan to work through our lives.

**Instead of being bound, we are free (vv. 33-34).** This freedom comes from concentrating on heavenly treasures and not earthly riches. Jesus calls on us to demonstrate our freedom to the world by trusting in him.

This freedom is not based on what we want to do. Spiritually, freedom means we are bound to follow God's teachings and meet the needs of others. If we do this, God will meet our needs if we trust him to do so.

Remember we talked about substituting a "me" and "mine" lifestyle at the beginning of this lesson review. What is that substitute lifestyle? May I suggest that it be a "thee" and "thine" mindset? This will be the greatest demonstration of our priority to seek his kingdom.

Buckley is a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal.



# Honor Roll of Churches

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in Village offices during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist churches in the descending order of their designated cash gifts. This does not include no-cash gift items that many churches contribute. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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3. First Church, Water Valley	13645.00	95. First Church, Mendenhall	2287.75	189. Heuck's Retreat Church, Brookhaven	1432.00
4. Rolling Creek Church, Quitman	12021.34	96. Bovina Church, Vicksburg	2252.74	190. Ramah Church, McCall Creek	1430.37
5. First Church, Gulfport	11280.40	97. First Church, Aberdeen	2252.00	191. Leaf River Church, Louin	1429.45
6. Morrison Heights Church, Clinton	10911.86	98. Mt. Zion Church-DeSoto, Hernando	2250.30	192. Russell Church, Meridian	1420.00
7. Forest Church, Forest	10597.25	99. Broadmoor, Jackson	2228.00	193. West Church, West	1405.00
8. Bunker Hill Church, Columbia	10545.58	100. Crowder Church, Crowder	2225.00	194. First Church, Fulton	1400.00
9. Hillcrest Church, Jackson	9481.00	101. Springfield Church, Morton	2221.21	195. Emmanuel Church, Greenville	1396.66
10. First Church, McComb	9451.44	102. Second Church, Indianola	2219.95	196. Goodyear Church, Picayune	1386.45
11. First Church, Booneville	7502.04	103. Northminster Church, Jackson	2200.00	197. Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport	1384.00
12. First Church, Jackson	7301.00	104. First Church, Ripley	2197.11	198. Second Church, Greenville	1374.76
13. Liberty Church, Liberty	6519.20	105. First Church, Batesville	2180.00	199. First Church, Yazoo City	1371.25
14. Wildwood Church, Clinton	6332.86	106. First Church, Canton	2160.75	200. Fredonia Church, New Albany	1370.93
15. First Church, Louisville	6260.62	107. Mt. Moriah Church, Bruce	2150.00	201. Derma Church, Derma	1366.97
16. Hollandale Church, Hollandale	6061.00	108. Gallman Church, Gallman	2143.38	202. Evergreen Church, Louisville	1350.00
17. Rienzi Church, Rienzi	6005.57	109. Monticello Church, Monticello	2120.00	203. Walthall Church, Walthall	1348.00
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19. First Church, Greenville	5795.46	111. Morgantown Church, Natchez	2112.63	205. First Church, Waynesboro	1306.50
20. Van Winkle Church, Jackson	5418.19	112. Beulah Church, Bolton	2076.93	206. First Church, Byhalia	1305.50
21. Poplar Springs Church, Newton	5283.29	113. Shuqualak Church, Shuqualak	2075.00	207. First Church, Steens	1300.00
22. Midway Church, Meridian	5230.00	114. Old Silver Creek Church, Silver Creek	2030.69	208. Gooden Lake, Belzoni	1295.00
23. Ingomar Church, New Albany	5172.63	115. First Church, Biloxi	2020.00	209. Sturgis Church, Sturgis	1290.35
24. First Church, Brandon	5164.48	116. Fairview Church, Columbus	2015.00	210. Friendship Church, Sturgis	1287.10
25. Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall	4969.37	117. Oak Forest Church, Jackson	2002.00	211. Northside Church, Clinton	1275.00
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28. State Boulevard Church, Meridian	4643.19	120. First Church, Greenwood	1982.66	214. Salem Church, Raymond	1271.00
29. First Church, Crystal Springs	4623.25	121. First Church, Holly Springs	1923.50	215. Poplar Flat Church, Louisville	1267.00
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31. Calvary Church, Meridian	4462.47	123. Navilla Church, McComb	1911.80	217. Pleasant Hill Church, Quitman	1262.10
32. First Church, Grenada	4428.00	124. Oak Grove Church, Bentonla	1900.74	218. First Church, Philadelphia	1253.25
33. Macedonia Church, Myrtle	4192.12	125. Pearson Church, Pearl	1900.00	219. Iuka Church, Iuka	1251.50
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53. Meadville Church, Meadville	3003.35	145. Beulah Church, Decatur	1715.00	239. Union Church, Sardis	1146.79
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61. First Church, Newton	2862.13	153. First Church, Bruce	1662.00	247. First Church, Maben	1115.00
62. Sand Hill Church, Richton	2857.10	154. DeSoto Church, Shubuta	1661.74	248. Valley Park Church, Valley Park	1113.60
63. Tylertown Church, Tylertown	2838.01	155. Leaf River Church, Collins	1660.00	249. Wynndale Church, Terry	1100.00
64. Dry Creek Church, Mendenhall	2835.54	156. First Church, Calhoun City	1657.00	250. Mt. Pleasant Church, West	1100.00
65. First Church, Eupora	2802.60	157. Learned Church, Learned	1650.00	251. Unity Church, Picayune	1099.50
66. First Church, Vicksburg	2799.44	158. First Church, Hattiesburg	1646.00	252. Griffith Memorial Church, Jackson	1095.00
67. Hurricane Creek Church, Sandy Hook	2798.72	159. Ingram Church, Baldwin	1643.75	253. Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven	1089.88
68. First Church, Clinton	2785.52	160. Oakland Heights Church, Meridian	1624.55	254. Ackerman Church, Ackerman	1088.00
69. Northwest Association, Hernando	2750.00	161. Easthaven Church, Brookhaven	1622.00	255. Clarke Venable Church, Decatur	1074.29
70. Shiloh Church, Big Creek	2740.38	162. Moak's Creek Church, Bogue Chitto	1610.00	256. Burns Church, Raleigh	1074.00
71. First Church, New Albany	2729.20	163. Union Church, Beaumont	1609.63	257. Pine Bluff Church, Pheba	1070.00
72. First Church, Magee	2699.00	164. First Church, Kosciusko	1600.50	258. Jones Chapel Church, Nettleton	1064.00
73. Fellowship Church, Meridian	2682.13	165. Pilgrim's Rest Church, Crystal Springs	1600.00	259. Magee's Creek Church, Jayess	1060.69
74. Mt. Zion Church-Tate, Independence	2640.96	166. Bethel Church, Poplarville	1563.38	260. Macedonia Church, Tupelo	1060.26
75. Plainway Church, Laurel	2639.00	167. Anchor Church, Water Valley	1554.48	261. Petal-Harvey Church, Petal	1055.00
76. First Church, Columbus	2635.10	168. Skene Church, Skene	1545.03	262. Friendship Church, McComb	1050.00
77. Calvary Church, West Point	2594.80	169. Berea Church, McCool	1531.00	263. First Church, Senatobia	1049.96
78. Pleasant Grove Church, Brookhaven	2538.30	170. Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto	1524.65	264. Beulah Church, Inverness	1049.10
79. Park Place Church, Brandon	2515.00	171. Ruleville Church, Ruleville	1519.61	265. Hillsboro Church, Hillsboro	1042.00
80. Calvary Church, Greenwood	2501.78	172. Providence Church, Hattiesburg	1502.00	266. First Church, Rolling Fork	1039.40
81. Pine Forest Church, Collinsville	2500.00	173. Galilee Church, Gloster	1495.00	267. Pine Grove Church, Picayune	1030.00
82. First Church, Isola	2479.27	174. D'Lo Church, D'Lo	1484.58	268. First Church, Taylorsville	1025.00
83. Grays Creek Church, Hernando	2411.89	175. Corinth Church, Magee	1483.00	269. Second Church, Kosciusko	1024.67
84. Woodland Hills Church, Jackson	2407.44	176. East Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia	1480.14	270. First Church, Runnelstown, Petal	1023.96
85. First Church, Meridian	2381.75	177. Centreville Church, Centreville	1475.39	271. Beacon Street, Philadelphia	1019.90
86. Mt. Horeb Church, Meridian	2370.73	178. Ellistown Church, Blue Springs	1471.75	272. Diamondhead Church, Bay St. Louis	1016.00
87. New Harmony Church, Blue Springs	2368.00	179. Success Church, Saucier	1468.24	273. New Palestine Church, Picayune	1011.00
88. Straight Bayou Church, Anguilla	2347.00	180. Corinth Church, Heidelberg	1466.40	274. Tuscola Church, Lena	1010.00
89. North Winona Church, Winona	2341.24	181. Bowmar Avenue Church, Vicksburg	1459.17	275. Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol	1005.00
90. North Greenwood Church, Greenwood	2336.11	182. First Church, Nettleton	1456.05	276. Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian	1003.19
91. DeKalb Church, DeKalb	2335.00	183. Main Street Church, Hattiesburg	1452.21	277. Buchanan Church, Pontotoc	1000.00
92. First Church, Union	2335.00	184. Friendship Church, Brookhaven	1448.00	278. Leflore Church, Holcomb	1000.00
		185. Sallis Church, Sallis	1446.00	279. Taylor Church, Taylor	1000.00
		186. First Church, Starkville	1445.40		



# New MBC president carries twin loves in heart

By Tim Nicholas

An interview with Mississippi Baptist Convention President Rex Yancey and his wife Ellon, yielded two somewhat different topics — Mississippi denominational relations, and a love story.

First, the love story.

Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, met Ellon in high school. "I had a tremendous burden to pray about who my mate might be," he recalled. And the summer between his 11th and 12th grade year, the Lord laid it on his heart that it might be Ellon who was in his class in school.

So he wrote her a letter "telling her I thought I loved her." Keep in mind that they had never dated nor had he expressed his feelings to her.

Ellon remembered that Rex was the class clown, "a likable fellow, but I wouldn't want to date anybody like that," she said. She wrote him back saying there was love and there was infatuation and he needed to know the difference. "I said we could be friends," she said.

He decided it was all or nothing. He slipped her a note asking if she would go out with him on Saturday night. "I got to thinking, 'he's really serious.' I said yes and I guess it's been just about every Saturday night since."

They dated two years. Ellon told her parents — her father a Methodist pastor — she wouldn't be surprised if Rex surrendered to preach.

Rex interjected that at the time, "I had never even told my pastor I'd been called to preach."

Ellon had been so afraid she'd marry someone who wouldn't go to

church with her. And her father said that if she ever wanted to join a Baptist church, they wouldn't hold it against her. Occasionally, Rex preaches in his father-in-law's church.

The upshot is that "I didn't reach 40 years of age and it suddenly dawned on me I'd married the wrong person," said Rex. "I knew all along I'd married the right person."

He added, "We've invested in each other and in our children. We've gone through some extreme hardships with each other and have reached the point where we can really enjoy each other."

The couple, married some 27 years, are experiencing the empty nest. Both children have left home. Lee is a minister of youth in Metairie, La., and Lori is a student at Mississippi State in social work.

"Sometimes that's when divorces happen," said Ellon, "when spouses find they have nothing in common."

They moved to Pascagoula two years ago after 11 years in Quitman. Ellon left her teaching job in Quitman and found no immediate opening on the Coast — although she later secured another job, now teaching fifth grade.

"All we had was each other," she said. "But it was a good move because we discovered we were still in love and became best friends."

Since he started preaching at age 17, Rex has had experience as a pastor in North, Central, and South Mississippi. He joked that if he continued in the same direction, his next pastorate would be out in

the Gulf of Mexico.

He has preached more than 300 revivals, 250 of them in Mississippi. "I feel I know Mississippi Baptists, I know their heartbeat, and I love my Mississippi Baptist family," he said.

Opportunities for service came his way after nearly 20 years of pastoral work. He has been chairman of the executive committee

it's a laymen's battle."

In an article in *The Baptist Record* Feb. 3, Rex challenged others to "acknowledge our part in the controversy whether it was direct or indirect involvement..." and "grow beyond groups and personal agendas." He asked others to let him know of their desire to seek God's healing.

What he'd like to do is help



Rex Yancey, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and his wife, Ellon, celebrate 27 years of marriage at home in Pascagoula. He is pastor of First Church, Pascagoula.

and president of the convention board. He has served on the boards of Blue Mountain College and William Carey College.

"I'm a graduate of Blue Mountain, took some Clarke College credit through Mississippi College, and had Hebrew at William Carey," he said. He earned the doctor of ministry degree from New Orleans Seminary in 1987.

As president of the convention, "I want to give something back because the convention has given so much to me," he said.

"After 15 years, I believe enough is enough," said Rex, referring to the various "camps" which espouse separating themselves from other Baptists as either conservative or moderate. "Somebody's got to say 'I'm tired of this.' I believe the mantle falls on the preachers — I don't think

Mississippi Baptists realize they are all in the same family.

"Traveling across the state," Rex said he's realized that "Mississippi Baptists' differences are not theological differences. They may be philosophical or cultural or educational, but the majority of Mississippi Baptists believe the Bible is the Word of God."

In the beginning, "I believe a course correction was needed. However, the pendulum has swung too far," he said.

"Isn't it time we affirm again the Bible is God's Word, that the Baptist Faith and Message gives us the parameters of belief, the Cooperative Program focuses our mission, and it's time to get on with business."

The convention president wanted to respond to a couple of things W.A. Criswell, senior pastor of

First Church, Dallas, said recently in a meeting in Tupelo. "I hold him in high esteem. But I disagree with him that the pastor is to rule the church."

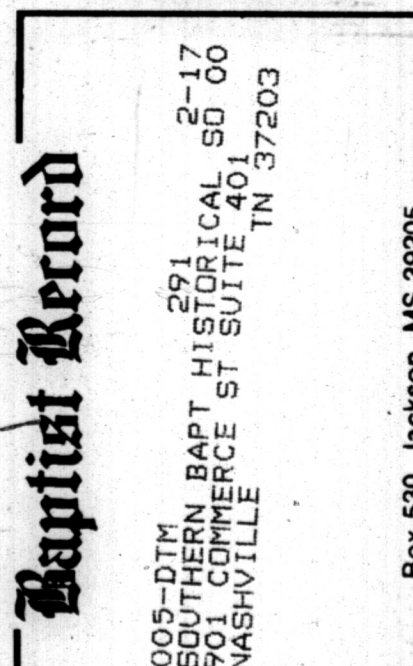
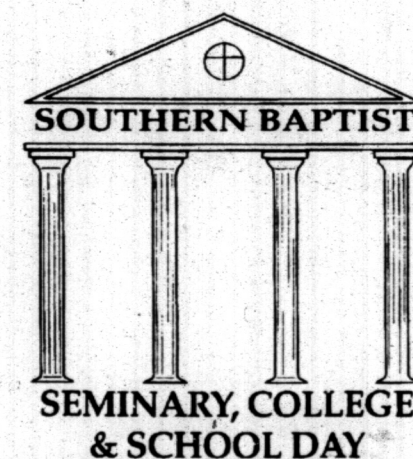
"My conviction is that if the pastor is a servant leader he will gain the leadership of the church and people will follow him because they respect him, not just because of his position, but because he lives the Christian life before them."

The second statement that Criswell made that Rex disagreed with was that the liberals control Mississippi. "Dr. Criswell doesn't know me. If he could sit down and talk to me about my convictions about the Word and leave politics aside... he'd know that I was not a liberal... neither is P.J. Scott (MBCB president), neither is Bill Causey (MBCB executive director), neither is Jim Futral (executive committee chairman), ad infinitum."

Rex noted that the fun of being president is the opportunity to preach across the state and work with committees. He has spoken in chapel at Carey and at MC. He's doing an "M" Night in Lee County. He especially appreciates the support of First Church, Pascagoula, in allowing him to do whatever is necessary as convention president.

Maybe this piece wasn't about two topics after all. Maybe it's just two love stories — the love of a husband and wife, and the love of a pastor for his denomination.

Nicholas is director, Office of Communication, MBCB.



## China bans unregistered churches, religious work

By Erich Bridges

HONG KONG (BP) — Just as the Clinton administration has begun praising China for improving its record on human rights, the Chinese government has cracked down anew on unauthorized religious activities.

Two government decrees — signed Jan. 31 by Chinese Premier Li Peng and announced Feb. 5 — ban churches not registered with officially recognized religious bodies and forbid "proselytizing" by foreigners.

The first forbids the existence of "house churches" and other congregations not belonging to the government-sanctioned Three-Self Patriotic Association, which represents Protestants, or the Catholic Patriotic Association.

Such churches have sprouted by the thousands in recent years, despite continuing persecution in some areas.

The law also limits activities inside approved churches, including sermons or programs that might "destroy national unity, ethnic unity, and social stability, damage public health, or undermine the national education system."

A second decree warns that foreigners "must not establish religious organizations, organs for managing religious affairs, or centers or schools for religious activity. (They) must not recruit religious followers, appoint religious teachers, or conduct any other proselytizing activities among the Chinese people."

Many Southern Baptists live and work in China. Most of them, however, teach English in universities or provide other professional skills and social services.

The question is: Why now? The Clinton administration has just begun expressing qualified approval of Chinese actions to improve human rights. That comes after repeated U.S. threats to eliminate China's "Most Favored Nation" (MFN) trade status — crucial to China's continued economic growth — when it comes up for renewal in June. A host of U.S. representatives and senators have made the same threat. Some of them have visited China, asking that Christian prisoners be released and religious freedom respected.

Bridges writes for FMB.

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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WKOW AD WKNZ TKOPW INFDUTT MAWK WKG  
HNZWK WKU PNQB CUTZT, OFB TKOPW JUPAURU  
AF WKAFU KUOQW WKOW LNB KOWK QOATUB  
KAH DQNH WKU BUOB, WKNZ TKOPW JU TORUB.  
QNHOFT WUF:FAFU

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First John Three:Eleven.

February 17, 1994